

**MAMARONECK SCHOOLS FOUNDATION
GRANT AWARDS FOR
2014-2015**

The Mamaroneck Schools Foundation is pleased to announce funding of 22 grants for the 2014-2015 school year. The grants, which total \$199,091, will have an impact at all six district schools, as well as on the entire community.

LITERACY AND LANGUAGE ARTS

Journalist Sonia Nazario Speaks About an Immigrant's Tale

MHS

This grant will bring award-winning journalist Sonia Nazario to MHS to speak to 9th grade students during the day and conduct an open session for parents and community members in the evening. Ms. Nazario, a journalist for the Los Angeles Times, is the author of *Enrique's Journey*, the true story of a young boy who makes the dangerous journey from Honduras to be reunited with his mother in the United States. Students will read *Enrique's Journey* and then hear Ms. Nazario discuss the book. Her presentation will include photographs of the journey, and students and the community will be provided with the opportunity to ask Ms. Nazario questions about the journey, her experience with migrants and her views on the political, social and economic aspects of immigrant reform. She has also agreed to allow her presentation to be videotaped so that it can be used for future classes.

Big Books for Balanced Literacy

Central

This grant awards "big books" for use by 1st grade teachers for shared reading lessons to anchor their Balanced Literacy Program. These new materials will be used to develop fluency, model efficient decoding strategies, and provide a basis for sight word and phonics instruction. A diverse collection of "big books" will enable opportunities to conduct a close reading of a text. Through quality instruction with these new materials, students will experience: improved word reading accuracy, fluency, writing mechanics, writing expression, comprehension and metacognition.

Building a Bilingual Library

Mamaroneck Avenue

This grant award provides funds to build a bilingual library at Mamaroneck Ave School directed at Kindergarten through 2nd grade in support of the Dos Caminos Dual Language Program. The books will expand the Spanish language library resources and include picture books, easy readers, non-fiction and cultural books in both English and Spanish. This collection of books will enhance literacy in students' non-dominant language, and help develop reading skills in both languages. Other books to enhance culture will include sports books, biographies, and recipe books. The presence of Hispanic culture books will help develop the background and cultural competence for students to fully embrace both languages.

Leveled Literacy at Murray

Murray Avenue

This grant provides the reading specialists at Murray Avenue School with a literacy intervention system aimed at students in grades 1-3 who are below District reading benchmarks. Through systematically designed lessons and original, engaging leveled books the system supports learning in both reading and writing. Reading specialists will use the variety of materials to adjust instruction for small groups of students outside the classroom during Differentiated Instructional Periods. Once students reach grade level benchmarks they will leave the group. The grant also provides two trolleys for storage of materials.

Steps to Reading Success at Mamaroneck Avenue**Mamaroneck Avenue**

This grant will allow the reading specialists at Mamaroneck Avenue School to meet their goals of creating a systematic and comprehensive reading program for all students in grades 1-5. The materials will enable them to implement a research-based, comprehensive reading program to help students reach grade level achievement in reading. This system will also help target the needs for the schools' English Language Learners through specific suggestions and scaffolds. The materials will allow the school to provide differentiated instruction and meet the needs of the varied learners in the school.

MATHEMATICS**Math Enrichment Professional Development for Elementary School Teachers****All Elementary**

This grant will bring Lucy West, an expert in the field of teaching mathematics, to Chatsworth to provide a large group workshop for teachers from all of our elementary schools. Ms. West's training presentation will be followed by three additional workshops conducted by consultants from her company, who will both instruct on mathematics teaching techniques and model these techniques in the classroom. This grant mirrors a similar grant from last year, in which Carl Anderson, a literacy consultant conducted similar professional development sessions. Last year's professional development received an extremely positive response from teachers and administrators alike.

Pi Day – Celebrating Mathematics at MHS**MHS**

This grant will supply the high school math department with a variety of math related accessories and activities to spark excitement for mathematics and promote student involvement for Pi Day, which is celebrated on March 14 (3/14) each year. The Math Department will plan activities to infuse students with enthusiasm, curiosity, and wonder for the beauty of mathematics. Activities will promote student involvement and participation across varied disciplines and skill sets. In addition, the Math Department hopes to encourage teachers in other disciplines to take a moment in their classes on Pi Day to pay a tribute to the study of mathematics and to relate it to other disciplines.

WORLD LANGUAGE**Creating World Language Labs Using iPads at Hommocks****Hommocks**

A language lab creates an effective learning environment that enables a high degree of immersion and gives students an opportunity to proceed at their own pace by listening to material multiple times until it is mastered. This grant will allow 8th grade World Language classrooms to become language labs by providing each student with a headset that can plug into an iPad (supplied through the District's one-to-one iPad initiative). As a result, students will be able to spend more time speaking their target foreign language in the classroom than they would in a conventional classroom setting without this equipment. The grant also provides professional development for all of the World Language teachers to collaborate on curriculum development ideas and to learn how to access and format files for iPad use.

MUSIC

Creating a District-Wide Ukulele Program

District

This grant will provide ukuleles, instruction books and teacher's instruments to the general music program at all six schools in the District. This program is designed encourage all District music teachers to collaborate and share ideas to strengthen the K-12 general music program. With this grant, the music department will have a common thread that will run through the entire music program and allow students to grow and develop their skills and abilities from the elementary through high school levels. The program will be implemented in the music classes in all elementary schools, the Unified Arts program at Hommocks and the PACE program at MHS. The ukuleles can also be used by students participating in the Ukulele Club at MHS.

Hommocks Music Studio*

Hommocks

This grant will fund the creation of a state-of-the-art music studio for use by all middle school performing and general music students, as well as students and faculty for after school use. Participation in the performing music programs (band, orchestra, and chorus) has more than doubled over the past few years. In addition, every 6th grade student takes a general music class as part of the Unified Arts rotation. This practice/recording studio will provide the Music Department with professional recording, editing and publishing capabilities. The funded equipment, including high end microphones, headphones, speakers, a sound board, recording and editing software, and an iMac to put it all together, will create a professional music recording facility at Hommocks. **This grant is partially funded by the Barbara Bennett-Rones Memorial Endowment.*

STEM (SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING AND MATH)

STEM Experiences for Chatsworth Students

Chatsworth

This grant will support the current science curriculum and instruction in grades 2-5 and promote the District's STEM initiatives by challenging Chatsworth's elementary students to solve real life problems using math, science, technology, and engineering skills. Weather kits (anemometer, cloud formation, maps, and climate charts) will provide 2nd and 3rd grade classes with data collection materials to enable them to study the impact of weather on the planet and boat kits (solar, sail, propeller and motor) will enable 4th grade students to build and test models and evaluate the impact of various weather and water conditions on travel and transportation. This grant will also fund Lego Education programming, including professional development. At the lower grades, students will use Lego Design Engineering to design, build and program simple machines. At the higher grades, students will design, build, and program more complex machines (a moon rover) using real-life robotics technology.

3D Printing and Design at MHS

MHS

This grant will supply Mamaroneck High School with one MakerBot Replicator 3D printer and one 3D scanner/digitizer. 3D printing is becoming more commonplace in all areas of technology, engineering, design and industry. MHS already offers students hands-on courses in engineering, robotics, architecture and digital graphics. This equipment will therefore enhance all of these classes, as well as new content areas in 3D design. These courses are foundations of many college engineering degrees and are becoming widely used in various industries in the workforce. This grant furthers the Districts goal of promoting STEM education at MHS.

Microcontrollers and Microcomputers

MHS

This grant awards 60 Raspberry Pis (credit-card sized microcomputers) and 60 SparkFun Inventors Kits (microcontrollers) to the MHS Computer Science Program. These cutting-edge tools will allow students to take on an array of physical computing projects and are flexible enough to teach a vast range of programming skills from the basic fundamentals to advanced programming projects at the graduate level and beyond. Students who engage in these creative and challenging STEM activities learn valuable STEM skills, including computation thinking and real life problem-solving. This innovative technology will provide hands-on physical computing and design engineering type opportunities in class and through extra-curricular offerings, enabling students to create their own DIY (Do-It-Yourself) projects, exhibit their creations at Maker Fairs and enter competitions.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION/ATHLETICS

Gymnastics and Creative Movement at Central

Central

Gymnastics allows students to think for themselves, stimulate their imaginations and move with their body safely. This grant will fund the purchase of equipment at Central School to enhance the traditional gymnastics unit beyond the most basic curriculum requirements and ensure the safety of students during the creative movement and gymnastics unit. The equipment being purchased for this grant includes a low balance beam and a variety of mats (some in specialized shapes and sizes), allowing the PE teachers to teach students different rolls, balance, and other gymnastics techniques and to create different obstacles and instruct students in overcoming various obstacles.

Incorporating Technology into the Hommocks PE Program

Hommocks

This grant will enable Hommocks PE teachers to enhance student learning by providing a way to show students actual demonstrations of new units (from professional videos, apps, etc.). Specifically, the grant includes the purchase of two 55-inch monitors, two Apple TV units and two encasements for the monitors. PE teachers will be able to access these monitors through the use of iPads (supplied by the District). This equipment will be used frequently to show new skills as students are ready to begin activity, will enable the teachers to utilize a myriad of apps for new PE programs, and will allow for groups of students to create their own "PE productions" of rock climbing techniques and fitness classes, for example, to show to the entire class. When appropriate, this equipment can also be utilized for video analysis of student activities. This grant will lead to increased class time by making the beginning of class more efficient. It will also allow the PE department to more effectively meet the common core standards and New York State Physical Education standards.

ADDITIONAL CLASSROOM ELECTIVES AND STUDENT ENRICHMENT

Enhancing the MHS Video Program with High End Equipment

MHS

This two-part grant will enable the MHS Video Program to receive updated equipment to enhance this ever-popular program. The first part of the grant includes the purchase of five high quality DSLR cameras and lenses that will expose students to a more authentic film making experience. Students will learn to work with manual features such as focus, aperture, manual lenses, shutter speed and a frame rate that matches cinema quality. This technology is becoming more commonly used in the industry, especially in short films and some television programs. The second part of the grant is for the purchase of three Apple iMac computers to allow for additional editing stations and to complete the MHS video lab by improving the computer-to-student ratio.

Growing Seeds Minds and Connections - Garden Enhancement**Hommocks**

This grant will provide a sprinkler system, gates and trellises, compost, a compost bin, garden tools and seeds to an already existing garden at the Hommocks. In Home and Careers Skills class, students learn about gardening and agriculture concepts and skills that integrate with subjects such as math and science, social studies, art, health, and physical education. Produce grown in the garden is used during the first quarter in Home and Career Skills class. In June, before the end of school, students from the environment club harvest produce and deliver it to the Mamaroneck Food Pantry. Students at the Hommocks Co-op Camp are the summer caretakers of the garden. Since the inception of the Hommocks greenhouse and garden, the garden has become not only a project for the Hommocks students, but one that gives back to the community as a whole.

Improving Focus in the Classroom***Murray Avenue**

This grant will provide classroom materials to help both general and special education students, for who focus and sustaining attention is difficult. Specifically, Murray Avenue will be provided with 25 standing desks, 20 ball chairs, 10 carpet/floor chairs and three fidgeting foot bands to be used throughout the general classrooms. These materials provide alternatives to traditional classroom seating arrangements and will help students who fidget, have difficulty sitting still for long periods of time, or need some form of input or motion to help maintain focus. The grant builds on an earlier pilot program at Murray in which two standing desks were purchased and have proven to be a very useful addition to the classroom. **This grant is partially funded by the Diane G. Millstein Endowment.*

SCHOOL CLIMATE**Unifying MHS through Innovative Design****MHS**

The grant will help transform MHS into a school that is unique in its sophisticated celebration of the work of our students and that aesthetically unites two buildings into an inspiring environment. The Art Installation will be comprised of approximately 126 images of student work mounted on matte frames, which will be composed into a single Art Installation linking the Palmer and Post Buildings of MHS and energizing the building with a celebration of student work.

Student Engagement Assessment**District**

In support of the Board of Education's goal to obtain benchmark data regarding student engagement and school climate, this grant will fund the administration of an accredited student survey, the High School Survey of Student Engagement (HSSSE), to all high school students. In education, student engagement and school climate are well known factors in the success and growth of students and are largely within the control of the District and malleable. The Board of Education and the Administration will use the survey's results to refine its goals and measure progress.

FACILITIES AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Murray Avenue Large Playground

Murray Avenue

This grant will benefit the entire Murray community by providing updated, safe, and functional playground equipment to replace the structure that is in deteriorating condition. In doing so, current and future students will be able to enjoy the new playground equipment at recess as well as after school, on weekends, and during school breaks. Murray's Physical Education Department is providing input into the design of the new playground and may be able to utilize the structure as part of the PE program.

STEM-tastic Saturday**

District/Community

STEM-tastic Saturday (May 3, 2014), sponsored by the STEM Alliance of Larchmont-Mamaroneck, will be a multi-component event including workshops, a community exhibition hall, a Science Café and forums for students, classes and clubs to showcase projects or lead discussions. This grant will support this event by sponsoring hands-on, professional exhibits. In addition, this grant will fund the purchase of Keva Planks, used to inspire spontaneous extensive group architecture. After STEM-tastic Saturday, the Keva Planks will be used in District Engineering, Architecture and Technology classes. These exhibits and materials will increase student engagement and provide an increased awareness of STEM learning and curriculum among students and their families. By awarding this grant and partnering with the STEM Alliance, MSF will further the goals of this event and strengthen collaborative efforts among community organizations that work to benefit students in the Larchmont/Mamaroneck community.