

**MAMARONECK SCHOOLS FOUNDATION  
GRANT AWARDS FOR  
2004-2005**

**Piano for Hommocks Auditorium**

**Hommocks**

The Foundation will partner with the school district and music department to purchase a Steinway Concert Grand piano for the new Hommocks Auditorium. This room is a fantastic space for music, theater and dance and will become a focal point for cultural life in the community. A piano of this quality will enhance performances in this space for years to come.

**Keyboard Workstations**

**Central and Chatsworth**

Two grants provide 13 electronic keyboards each to Chatsworth and Central elementary schools. They will be used to create individual music technology workstations in the music classrooms to help in the teaching of musical concepts and the creation and performance of music. These grants are the result of an earlier pilot grant made by the Foundation to the Murray Ave. school.

**Master Class Instruction/Artists in Residence**

**MHS**

This grant provides for a year-long program of nationally renowned master class instructors and guest artists who will work with district music students in various formats. Students in all of the musical groups at the High School, including the Concert Band, Jazz Band, Orchestra and Choir, will receive instruction from noted professionals and be exposed to a variety of musical styles and approaches.

**Portable Sound Recording System**

**MHS**

This grant will be used to purchase the components for a sound recording system at Mamaroneck High School. The system will be used to record the concerts of the various high school musical groups, and give students the ability to record individual CDs of their musical performances for their portfolios. Because the system is portable, it can be taken to competition stages and music rooms outside the building.

**Electronic Tablets for Elementary Art Instruction**

**Murray**

This will fund 13 electronic tablets to be utilized for art instruction at Murray Avenue School. The tablets provide cordless, pen-based control and pressure sensitivity that enables students to produce finely controlled lines and textures. These tablets will broaden the appeal of art, reaching students who might otherwise dismiss art as not relevant to them.

**Dance, Theater and Music Summer Enrichment**

**Mamaroneck Ave./Co-op Camp**

In conjunction with the district, which will be purchasing electronic keyboards for Mamaroneck Avenue School and CO-OP camp, the Foundation will provide costumes and scenery to produce a Historical Music and Dance Review by the children at CO-OP Camp. All campers will study different styles of art, music and dance throughout history and will work to produce their own music and dance routines related to a specific historical period.

**Cultural Experiences**

**Hommocks**

For students who attend the Hommocks Summer Day School and Camp, this program provides academic assistance within a camp-like setting. The grant will fund cultural and academic field

trips to places such as the Intrepid Sea, Air and Space Museum and the Studio Museum in Harlem, which these students might not otherwise have the opportunity to explore. These enriching experiences will help to broaden the students' life experience and cultural knowledge, which are important foundations for learning.

**Weaving at Lunch**

**Mamaroneck Avenue**

This grant, awarded to the Mamaroneck Avenue School art teacher will enrich the children's lunchtime experience by offering weaving and other fiber-related art activities (knitting, crocheting, embroidery, and braiding). This lunchtime program will be supervised by teacher aides and parent volunteers.

**Improving Physics Student Lab Experiences using PASCO 750 Interfaces**

**MHS**

The physics teachers at Mamaroneck High School will purchase ten PASCO Scientific 750 Interfaces which will be used in conjunction with a computer to enable the precise measurement of force, position, temperature, pressure, angular velocity, acceleration, current, magnetic field, wave characteristics and more and will facilitate immediate data analysis and interpretation. Each of the two new physics labs will have five sets of the 750 Interfaces. This equipment will improve physics understanding by allowing hands-on investigation.

**Smart Boards**

**MHS**

This grant, to mathematics teachers at the High School, will connect presentation boards to a classroom computer, allowing for notes and problems that the teachers write on them to be printed and/or saved. Students can then access the notes if they missed class, as a refresher or for test prep. This technology will allow students with a variety of needs and abilities more opportunity to think, engage and participate in class discussions. These teachers will pilot two permanently installed boards and two portable boards. Funding will cover the equipment, curriculum planning and workshops.

**TI Navigator - A Classroom Learning System**

**MHS**

Mathematics teachers at the High School will pilot this exciting new tool to enhance student learning. The TI Navigator provides a wireless network between the students' graphing calculators and the teacher's computer. Teachers benefit by more quickly assessing students' understanding and progress; students benefit from instant feedback on their work, and both benefit from the quick and easy transfer of material back and forth. Funding will cover the equipment and curriculum planning.

**Making Algebra Child's Play**

**Mamaroneck Avenue**

This will allow for the teaching of algebra to fifth grade classes at Mamaroneck Ave. This is a hands-on program utilizing objects and tools that are held in the hand to help students better visualize problem-solving in algebra. The program is flexible and can be used both for children with strong math skills as well as students who struggle in this area. Funding will cover the cost of teacher training and materials.

**Wonders of Nature**

Naturalists from the Sheldrake Environmental Center will lead environmental education classes for children from the Mamaroneck Child Development Center (MCDC). The 35 students in the three- and four-year-old classes will alternate weekly 90-minute visits to the Reservoir for a walk, story and craft with the naturalists as they learn about the wonders of our

environment. This grant includes money for books that will become part of the MCDC library. This program will run for two years with the goal of training the MCDC staff to instruct the children at the Reservoir in future years.

**L.I.N.K.S.- Literacy in Non-Fiction Knowledge Support:**

**All Elementary Schools**

This grant, awarded to the four elementary school principals, as well as special assignment teachers, establishes the L.I.N.K.S. program, a district-wide storehouse of non-fiction resources for fourth and fifth grade students, teachers and parents. A variety of non-fiction materials, including short, printed texts, videos and audiotapes will be purchased for each elementary school and a set of similar materials will be purchased for parents. Teachers will use the materials to teach content and reading strategies and will utilize the different types of materials to engage all learners, including those who might respond more favorably to visual or aural information. Parents will be introduced to L.I.N.K.S. in a district-wide evening hosted by the elementary school principals.

**Expanded Reading with Differentiated Materials**

**Central**

This grant will be used to purchase five non-fiction *Time for Kids* kits for third and fourth graders at Central School. The kits will build background knowledge appropriate to the curriculum and include stimulating information relevant to the real world.

**Traveling Trunks**

**Murray**

Murray Avenue School was awarded this grant to create a program that will enhance the learning experiences for all Murray students in grades 2-5. The trunks will enable teachers to immerse students in artifacts and activities that directly connect them to social studies curriculum units, also allowing for differentiated instruction for diverse learners. Each grade's trunk will have a different theme – 2<sup>nd</sup> grade: Colonial Communities; 3<sup>rd</sup> grade: Native Americans of New York; 4<sup>th</sup> grade: Industrialization and Immigration; 5<sup>th</sup> grade: Latin and South America.

**AlphaSmarts for Second Grade Writing**

**Mamaroneck Ave.**

This will fund the purchase of 25 AlphaSmarts for Mamaroneck Avenue School. AlphaSmarts are portable laptops that enable students to word process in the classroom, on a class trip, or at home. They will be used by the second grade teachers to increase student interest in writing and revising written work.

**"Building Community" Reading Project**

**Central**

Presently, Central School is engaged in a school-wide program called CORE, funded by the Foundation, which focuses on themes such as community, respect, cooperation, communication and conflict resolution. This grant will be used to purchase books to reinforce and enrich these CORE themes and connect them to literacy instruction. The books will be read aloud by teachers with follow-up student discussions and activities, so that a common understanding and language can be built across grade levels.

**Multicultural/Bilingual Literature for Parent/Child Book Clubs**

**Mamaroneck Ave.**

This grant, to a Mamaroneck Avenue School fifth grade teacher, will purchase books for a series of parent/child book clubs targeted at bilingual families of multicultural backgrounds. This project will give parents the opportunity to read the same book as their child in their primary language, have discussions based on their interpretation of the text and, hopefully, foster connections among families at the school.

**P.A.W.S (Parents as Writing Students): An Exploration of the World of Writing**

**Mamaroneck Ave.**

This grant to Mamaroneck Avenue School administrators and faculty, invites parents to explore the writing process. Pam Allyn and the staff of LitLife (including a bilingual facilitator) will take parents through such topics as non-fiction writing, using mentor texts to encourage and inspire writing, writing for an audience, and using conventions in writing. The final workshop evening will be a family celebration for children and parents.

**Special Education House Plan**

**MHS**

This grant will allow the approximately 60 students who are in Mamaroneck High School's self-contained special education classes to receive more concentrated academic and extracurricular support. The components of the grant are: planning time for teachers to create a more interdisciplinary, relevant curriculum; quarterly trips to cultural events; two weekly after-school groups with facilitators, one focusing on personal choices and decisions, and the other on vocational options; and two parent meetings.

**Dana by Alphasmart Starter Set**

**MHS**

This grant will fund 10 Dana handheld computers for use by Mamaroneck High School students. The Danas combine the power, ergonomics, and functionality of a computer with the size and affordability of a handheld. They will be used for note taking and writing activities by students whose physical and perceptual difficulties limit their ability to write extensively by hand.

**Superintendents Conference Day**

**District**

This grant is a partnership with the school district to bring nationally known speaker Richard Lavoie to Superintendents Conference Day to be the keynote speaker on differentiated instruction. Following the main speech to all the teachers, there will be workshops lead by Mr. Lavoie and other well-known facilitators in the field of differentiated instruction. We have partnered with SEPTA to have Mr. Lavoie give a workshop for parents the night before the Superintendent's Conference Day. This grant is partially funded by the Foundation's Barbara Bennett-Rones Memorial Endowment.

**Transition Planning: An Essential School Planning Concept:**

**MHS**

This grant will help students from Mamaroneck High School's STEPS Program in their transition from the school environment into the community. They will have a community-based work experience as part of their current education program. Community activities will be linked with work activities. Specialists in the field will assist to maximize the transition process. Training and workshops for parents and staff will be included.

**Tech Tools**

**District**

This grant to the Special Education Department will be used to create an assistive technology literacy toolkit in each school for grades Pre-K through 12. The low- to mid-range tech tools range from special pencil grips, slant boards and adaptive paper to electronic spell checkers to help students improve literacy and writing mechanics. Teachers will receive training in the use of these tools for assessment and to maximize learning in an inclusive classroom setting.

**Commons Improvement for Hommocks Middle School**

**Hommocks**

Over the last two years, Hommocks Middle School has undergone a remarkable transformation to better meet the needs of today's middle school students. One critical area of the building has not reached its full potential: the Commons near the main entrance. This grant will fund a professional designer to develop a plan to renovate the Commons as a Village Square. Like the village square in a New England town, the Commons would become the focal point for Hommocks community life—providing for a meeting place, news, commerce, recreation—and help build a sense of community

**Traverse Climbing Wall**

**Central**

This grant will fund the purchase and installation of traverse rock climbing system for the Central School gym. The entire Central population will benefit from this major addition to the physical education program. Students will be familiar with this equipment when they reach the Hommocks, where all students participate in Project Adventure, a comprehensive climbing program, as part of the physical education curriculum.

**Project Adventure**

**Hommocks**

This grant will fund the purchase and installation of a “vertical playpen,” a climbing station that is used in conjunction with the existing climbing wall, at the Hommocks Middle School. Our funding will further enhance the already popular and successful Project Adventure program, a physical education unit in which all Hommocks students participate.

**Fencing Team Expansion Initiative**

This grant will purchase fencing scoring machines and reels. This modern equipment, used by students in both the high school and middle school, will be used in competition and during practices. The very popular fencing program is a leader in the tri-state area and has consistently ranked among the top programs for many years.