

**MAMARONECK SCHOOLS FOUNDATION  
DESCRIPTION OF GRANT AWARDS FOR  
2017-2018**

The Mamaroneck Schools Foundation is pleased to announce the approval of funding of for 25 grants for the 2017-2018 school year. The grants, which total \$244,964, will have an impact on all six district schools, as well as on the entire community.

**LITERACY AND LANGUAGE ARTS**

**High-Interest Capstone Books**

**All Elementary and Hommocks**

Because research suggests that student research is best when it begins with a book and then followed with other sources (online, etc.), this grant allows for the purchase of texts to support student research for their Capstone projects. These texts, to be housed in the libraries of each elementary school plus Hommocks, will cover topics in far greater depth than many books that are typically purchased for these readers. When the Capstone work is in progress, the books will only be available to students working on their projects. At other times, the books will be available to the entire school community (students and faculty). The books will be high-interest titles with a variety of reading levels to meet the needs of all Capstone participants. This high-interest collection is intended to spark interest and to support inquiry needs as students develop and pursue their inquiry projects. Examples of topics include solar power, driverless cars, World War II weapons, Anne Frank, etc.

**Playaway Bookpacks Collection at Murray**

**Murray Avenue**

This grant provides for the creation of a Playaway book pack collection in each first grade classroom. Playaway bookpacks are sets of 35 audio books and the corresponding print versions of the texts. The audiobooks allow the listener to control the speed of the narrator's voice and automatically bookmark a stopping point; they are also portable, which means students can practice specific skills and strategies they learned in the classroom while they are at home with their families. The backpack collections will also be made available to all students in the primary grades. The use of the audiobooks supports the district's balanced literacy curriculum and approach and provides an additional layer of support for emerging and striving readers, auditory and special education students and students learning English.

*\*This grant is partially funded by the Diane G. Millstein Endowment.*

**One Book, One Read: Weaving a School Community Together Through Literacy**

**Murray Avenue**

This grant will generate enthusiasm and strengthen the already strong sense of community by having the entire school share a common literacy experience. All families will receive a copy of the book *Winnie the Pooh*, by A.A. Milne. The One Book, One Read team will create a timeline and discussion questions to go along with each night's reading, and encourage families to read together each night. School-wide involvement will be generated from class book talks and by decorating the school hallways with inspirational quotes and life-size characters from the book. In order to build background knowledge and excitement, the school will also have each class read the Caldecott award-winning picture book *Finding Winnie*, by Lindsey Mattick. The One Book, One Read experience will culminate with three school assemblies with the author, Ms. Mattick (one for Kindergarten and 1<sup>st</sup> grade, one for 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> grade and one for 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade).

**Building a "Garden" of Library Books**

**All Elementary**

This grant will fund a modern library collection of horticultural books, featuring conservation, botany, and ecology for the students at each of the elementary schools. Great stories and informational texts, all

about plants, gardening, and sustainability, will inspire students while renewing and invigorating this subject area in each of our elementary school libraries. The texts will also reinforce new science standards and facilitate deeper research on related Capstone projects.

## **STEAM (SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, ART AND MATH)**

### **Programming Fundamentals with Finch Robots**

**All Elementary**

This grant will strengthen the expanding computer science program for students in grades 2 through 5 by providing 12 Finch Robots each to Murray, MAS, and Central (Chatsworth received 15 through a PTA grant for the 2016-17 school year). Students will use their knowledge of coding to program the robots, thus learning how to solve three-dimensional problems, create digital art and stories, and explore the robots' interactive capacity. The robots will allow the integration of computational skills with writing, mathematics, and science instruction while solving real-world problems and fostering innovation. This grant also includes four 16-tablet charging carts to house the supporting Chromebooks that will be provided to each elementary school by the District, as well as funding for two days of program development for the district technology coach who will conduct training for teachers and lab TAs at each elementary school.

## **ART, MUSIC AND THE PERFORMING ARTS**

### **Chatsworth Outdoor Art Studio**

**Chatsworth**

This grant funds the equipment and materials for Chatsworth to build an outdoor art studio, enabling Chatsworth students to extend the art techniques learned in the classroom by bringing the class outdoors. Students will have the ability to observe and create from their natural surroundings, as well as incorporate material from the outdoors in their exploration and creative process. Both the art specialist and classroom teachers will have access to this space as well as the music specialist. This grant builds on the success of Chatsworth's Outdoor Classroom as well as the mindfulness initiatives by offering students a serene place to learn. *\*This grant is partially funded by the Barbara Bennett-Rones Memorial Endowment.*

### **Modernizing the PACE Side Lighting System**

**MHS**

This grant would allow for the side lighting of the PACE auditorium stage to be upgraded to LED fixtures. With this upgrade, student performances will be greatly enhanced, as the LED lights will allow for a wider range of colors and will provide for a more comprehensive color wash. This equipment will provide students an opportunity to learn and create with technologies they may see in college programs and beyond. Having more sophisticated lighting equipment will also give students the ability to learn advanced design and lighting. Additionally, LED lights have a higher output and a lower power consumption (an average 75% power savings). The LED lights will also last longer and be safer for students to work with. The District is also contributing to this initiative.

### **Photography and Design Initiative**

**MHS**

The Photography and Design programs at MHS are very popular programs that involve real world design and photography experiences. This grant will provide two additional cameras with bags that will benefit many students who need cameras for their photo shoots both inside and outside the classroom.

## **ENCORE CLASSES AND ELECTIVES**

### **Hi-Tech Home Ec - E-Textiles Lab**

**HMX**

This grant will fund the creation of an innovative lab marrying sewing and textile arts with engineering and computer science. The lab will consist of Chromebooks, laptops and electrical components that can be sewn into fabric. The “sew-able circuit” projects are capable of lighting up, blinking, buzzing, playing music or anything a middle schooler can dream up. The lab will enrich the Family and Consumer Science curriculum in a way that will foster the arts, innovation, and problem solving while igniting student creativity. It directly complements the work of Computer Science, Technology and Engineering curricula in the district and will empower a wider range of students to claim a seat at the table in an age where technology education is mandatory. The Hommocks e-textiles lab is being funded in conjunction with support from the District.

### **Mirrored Demonstration for Culinary Arts**

**MHS**

This grant will provide a mirrored demonstration table for the Culinary Arts lab at MHS. The table will allow students to watch the culinary demonstrations with a much larger and enhanced viewing range. It will greatly improve the line of sight for all Culinary Arts students in Grades 9-12 (approximately 100 students per year).

### **Podcast/Radio Equipment for Digital Reporting**

**MHS**

This grant funds the purchase of iPhone reporting equipment to be used in the Mamaroneck Associated Press class, and will enhance the authentic learning experience for students. The class dissects and studies different forms of media: visual, auditory and print. One objective of the class is to study the realm of the digital listening experience and the medium of radio, which has been re-born with the advent of podcasts and recordable shows. The goal will be to produce a series of radio shows with this equipment for the community and improve the current content of the Medium.com web site for both shows and audio reporting. Students will go through the entire creative process from the ground-up and the goal will be that the shows will be serialized and students will gain a radio following. The District will be funding the purchase of two Chromebooks to be used with the equipment.

## **OUTDOOR SPACE & LEARNING**

### **Murray Greenhouse Design**

**Murray Avenue**

This grant will fund the architectural designs for a proposed Murray Avenue Smart Greenhouse, needed for NY State Education Department approval. This proposed greenhouse will transform Murray’s garden-based educational program into a state-of-the-art learning center—a year-round, hands on, living laboratory for the study of plant science, nutrition, environmental conservation, solar energy, weather, computer programming and robotics. Should the plans be approved, and the greenhouse built, it will also afford the opportunity for the school to expand its relationship with Sheldrake Environmental Center with the goal of establishing a “Naturalist in Residence” program.

### **MAS Community Garden Irrigation**

**MAS**

This grant will provide for the installation of an irrigation system to water the MAS Community Garden. The combination drip and sprinkler system offers an economical and efficient way to water the large number of beds, the pollinator garden and the fruits and flowers along the fence on Mamaroneck Avenue. The grant will also provide for four rain barrels and three composters for teaching water

conservation and enhancing the sustainability curriculum. This grant will allow students, teachers and other staff to focus their time on teaching the garden curriculum and composting, as opposed to hand watering.

**MAS Science Partnership with Otter Creek Preserve and Greenhouse Design**

**MAS**

This grant will allow for a sustainable science program through the support of a partnership between the Otter Creek Preserve and MAS. Over a three-year period, students will raise native plants for reforestation at Otter Creek Preserve while learning about botany, ecology and sustainability. This partnership will serve over 700 children and over 170 teachers each year allowing students to garner real world STEM learning. The funding will be used to purchase the material and equipment needed to grow the plants and provide for field trips to Otter Creek so that students can install their plants and participate in guided walks. This grant will also fund architectural designs (required by the NY State Education Department) for a proposed greenhouse that will benefit future programs and learning for students at MAS.

**MHS Campus Revitalization**

**MHS**

This grant funds outdoor benches and picnic tables for MHS students, as currently, students do not have enough outdoor seating. A portion of this grant also supplements a generous donation of new shrubbery to be made by Larchmont Nurseries to improve the environment around the school for all who attend and visit. The goal of this grant is to enhance the MHS campus with outdoor seating areas that invite and promote a level of relaxation and rejuvenation for students and staff for years to come.

**CURRICULAR ENHANCEMENT**

**Mobile Teacher Content Creation Labs at MHS and Hommocks**

**MHS/HMX**

This grant will fund two mobile content creation labs, one at MHS and one at Hommocks. Each lab will consist of a cart with a variety of technology tools that can be used by teachers, with the support of the District Technology Coach if desired, to create robust and engaging educational content. Tools will include powerful Mac laptops for such tasks as video and audio editing and presentation and digital textbook design. It will also include Chromebooks for collaboration, research and other web-based creation. iPad Pros will be used for creating Whiteboard style instructional videos and other touchscreen enhanced resources. These mobile labs can be signed out by teachers, teams, departments, and other groups of colleagues and used in any location to create learning materials to use in the classrooms. The mobile lab will provide flexibility and the means for teachers who want to enhance their existing resources or who want to develop new and improved material for students.

**Virtual Reality in the Classroom**

**HMX**

This grant allows for the purchase of 105 Virtual Reality Google Expedition headsets with iPod touches to be used as a teaching tool that immerses students in “trips” all over the worlds, like voyages to outer space, deep see diving, and visits to historical landmarks. The expeditions are led by the teacher while students access the scene by wearing the headsets. The Google Expeditions will be aligned to current curriculum content allowing teachers to integrate these experiences in their current unit of study, while providing authentic learning experiences. The grant allows for the purchase of four class sets that can be shared by all grade levels and departments, including “core” and “encore” classes.

**Watch What I Can Do: Portable Video Recording at Central****Central**

This grant will be used to purchase the equipment needed for the creation of a portable video recording studio. The equipment consists of a tripod, portable “green screen”, an iPad Pro in a “Padcaster” and video editing apps. The Padcaster is a sturdy framework used not only to secure an iPad Pro to a tripod but also to connect a variety of peripherals, such as the included microphone and camera lens. The Padcaster with the tripod creates a steady, sturdy and stable recording environment. This will be set up in in the school library with a smart TV on a cart and this will bring flexibility to the library program by creating a student collaboration and presentation area. This “studio” will provide an outlet for students’ creativity and a vehicle for sharing what they discover. The equipment can be used in a variety of ways, including the creation of video book trailers and book reviews. Students will be able to record themselves making presentations, creating tutorials and public service announcements, or creating video projects that can be shared throughout the school through Google Classroom and Google Drive. Teachers can also record lessons to “flip” learning for students.

**STUDENT AND COMMUNITY ENRICHMENT****The Policy Debate Team Goes on the Road****MHS**

This grant supports the launch of the newly established MHS Policy Debate Team by providing the funds for busing to seven tournaments. In its first year, there are 40+ students participating and this number is expected to grow, given that the majority involved came in as underclassmen. Debate offers an alternative for students who seek a non-athletic team environment. It also fosters many skills, including public speaking, critical thinking, and reading comprehension as well as adding to students’ knowledge of important policy issues. In order for the team to thrive, it is necessary for students to travel to and participate in debates with other schools. The team was formed this year (2016-2017), largely driven by parent initiative and funding – and the interest has exceeded everyone’s expectations. By securing funding for travel to debates in the coming year, the district and the team time will have sufficient time organize future funding to ensure the program’s long term viability.

**Drug Awareness Training Series****MHS**

This grant provides for drug and alcohol prevention and intervention training for students, faculty, staff, administration and parents in the Larchmont/Mamaroneck community. Guidance counselors, educators, psychologists, social workers, parents, students and administrators are being forced to deal with a growing drug epidemic that is facing our country. With increased awareness and knowledge comes hope for continuing to stay ahead of this issue and decreasing use among teens in the community. The vision for this program is to supplement the comprehensive wellness approach that takes place at MHS by increasing awareness and knowledge. This grant supports a multi-pronged approach for addressing each faction of the target audience: Faculty staff, administrators and parent sessions will be led by Officer Jermaine Galloway; students in grades 9-11 will attend grade-level assemblies Mr. Kevin Wanzer; and seniors will be broken into small groups to meet with Mr. Mike Nerney. Each of these speakers are experts in the field and extremely effective in connecting and communicating with their respective audience.

## **PHYSICAL EDUCATION, HEALTH AND WELLNESS**

### **Gaga Pits at Hommocks, Central and MAS**

**CEN, MAS, HMX**

This grant will fund the purchase and installation of two gaga pits each, for Central, Mamaroneck Avenue School and Hommocks. At Central and MAS, Gaga will be introduced and used in grades 2-5 in the Street Games unit in physical education; in addition, children will have access to the gaga pits during recess as well as before and after school. At Hommocks, the gaga pits would be available for use during lunch/recess; they could also be used after school by soccer players to practice ball skills and field hockey players to practice stick handling. Gaga is an ideal game because children of any age, size or athletic ability have the same chance to win. A complete game lasts only a few minutes, so player turnover is quick and no one sits out for very long.

### **Hommocks Wellness Center**

**HMX**

This grant provides funds to convert a space allotted to the Counseling Department to become a warm and welcoming environment for students. This space would be used for the Social and Emotional curriculum provided in the 6<sup>th</sup> grade, as well as for additional wellness activities, such as mindfulness programs. The Wellness Center would provide a location for group counseling and social emotional presentations on a larger scale than what can be done in counselors' individual offices. Specifically, funds will be used to purchase furniture to transform this space into a more casual, lounge-like environment and to procure a variety of games and activities to be used by students looking for ways to unwind and relax.

## **PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT/STAFF ENVIRONMENT**

### **Math Professional Development for K-5**

This grant allows a total of 12 teachers (3 teachers per elementary school, one from grades K-1, one from grades 2-3 and one from grades 4-5) to attend three days of workshops with a Senior Staff Developer from Math in the City. The MitC consultant will customize the workshops to support the District's teachers and curriculum, and to model specific teaching strategies to enhance the teaching of the Common Core mathematics standards. Attendees will then share their learning with colleagues on an ongoing basis.

### **Texts for Educating the Bilingual Student**

**MAS**

This grant will fund professional texts on bilingual education to be used as a study tool for members of a Dual Language Study Group. A significant number of teachers at the elementary level teach students who are bilingual, therefore the study and practice of effective teaching methodologies for bilingual students is important. Ultimately, the goal is to create a forum for interested teachers and be an incubator for trying new methodologies and practices, which these texts will be used to support. Participants will be able to study the text and try out new methodologies in their classrooms. Bilingual students will benefit from the continuously improved practice of their teachers.

### **Conference Room Redesign to Foster Collaboration**

**MAS**

This grant will provide funding to equip the MAS small conference room with Google inspired floor to ceiling whiteboard and flexible grouping furniture. Along with an LED display provided by the District, teachers and students will have a collaborative space with easy access to technology and data. The white boards allow for a visual expression of ideas while the furniture is easily arranged for a larger

group or small break out groups. The LED display allows anyone to share technology-based projects and information. Teachers and administrators will use this space for team meetings, grade level meetings, professional development through Google Apps, and to collaborate with student leaders. Students will use the room on a regular basis for small group collaboration projects and before-school learning opportunities.