

**MAMARONECK SCHOOLS FOUNDATION
GRANT AWARDS FOR
2007-2008**

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Classroom Library for Original Science Research

MHS

During the first year of this three-year program, students investigate possible topics of interest for their research in areas such as biology, medicine, computer science and psychology. This dedicated classroom library will enhance their search with up-to-date texts on a wide variety of science and social science topics.

Trout in the Classroom

Hommocks

This grant will fund the expansion to all seventh grade science classrooms of the very successful "Trout in the Classroom" program piloted this year. Through hands-on science activities, students not only learn about ecosystems, but also provide stewardship for the local environment, discuss conservation ethics, and take personal responsibility for their ecosystems. Their work will be shared via monitors in the science atrium and on a website.

SMART-Enhanced Curriculum for Third-Graders

Chatsworth

A SMART board, along with teacher training to use it, will be provided to a third-grade classroom at Chatsworth. SMART boards connect a "blackboard" to a classroom computer to allow work viewed on the board to be saved, manipulated and shared. It will be used across a variety of curriculum areas.

Video Learning Center

Murray

This grant will add a video-based learning center to the school library, providing for the enhancement of an existing computer with a large-screen digital monitor and listening center with wireless headsets. The learning center will be used by small groups of students with a specific focus corresponding to a classroom lesson.

Sheldrake On-Site Laboratory

District

This grant funds an onsite laboratory and classroom at Sheldrake Environmental Center to complement the fifth-grade Microworld unit. The award will include five compound digital and five compound stereo microscopes to be used by instructors and students in groups; a computer and monitor; as well as training time for Sheldrake educators.. Students will observe samples from the center's pond in the microscopes, and these images can then be saved onto the computer and sent to the classroom for further analysis. The expectation is that this program will eventually be expanded for use with other grades and Sheldrake programs.

Mobile Computers in the Physics Laboratory

MHS

This grant will enhance the use of the state-of-the-art PASCO Scientific 750 Interfaces, which were funded by a 2005 MSF grant. This advanced technology requires suitable computer hardware to run increasingly powerful software. Ten mobile computer carts and four desktop computers and laser printers will provide an efficient way to offer students computer resources

on demand. Physics students will use these computers for data acquisition and analysis, and the laser printers will allow them to print their results.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Character Education Study Group and Curriculum

Chatsworth

The goal of this project is to launch a school-wide enrichment program focused on character and community. This grant will fund development time during the summer for administrators, teachers and parents to research and develop a character education curriculum.

Feeding a Running Stream

District

This grant will fund the third and final year of a program to enhance the professional development of teachers, provided through a private directed donation. Annie Zimmer, assistant superintendent for curriculum and instruction, will select a series of conferences, workshops and speakers, as well as purchase materials for the district's library of professional literature.

SPECIAL EDUCATION

Poetry Project

MHS

Students in special education English classes will learn about poets and poetry through lessons and readings from a class library of poetry funded by this grant. Students will then work directly with poet-in-residence Zork Alan, who will share his experiences and challenges in writing poetry.

W.O.W. (Words on Wheels) Reading Center

Hommocks

This project is designed to enhance the reading experiences of special education middle school students by providing a multi-level library of texts for independent reading, as well as a collection of modified texts for the major novels commonly taught at each grade level.

ATHLETICS

Kayaking for Middle and High School Students

Hommocks

Fifteen whitewater kayaks, paddles and lifejackets will be purchased for use in the physical education curriculum at the Hommocks pool. A kayaking club may also be formed at the High School. This grant will allow for greater utilization of the pool, and provide instruction in a lifelong sport, which is a key component of the modern physical education curriculum.

ARTS

Electronic Drawing Tablets

Hommocks

As part of their seventh grade curriculum in the art media lab, Hommocks students will now have a new tool in their repertoire with the purchase of fifteen electronic drawing tablets and styluses. The tablet and stylus offer more control and greater versatility as a drawing tool than a

computer mouse, allowing students to create original drawings and cartoons directly on the computer or to convert conventional drawings into digital images.

Collaborative Design of Creative Space

MHS

The art faculty plans to customize and redesign its art studios to make the storage space within them more flexible and accessible to students. This grant covers the cost of materials required.

“Sing a Song of Literacy”

Central

This grant adds a musical component to the already successful CORE program at Central. It seeks to increase reading comprehension and fluency as well as nurture tolerance and respect through song. Appropriate songs will be taught to the children, who will then record them, and CDs will be distributed to all the classrooms. Song flip charts and songbooks will be produced and printed to accompany the music. This grant includes digital recording software and equipment as well as the printing of the books and charts.

Music Enrichment for Minority and Low-Income Students

Hommocks

This program provides music enrichment to students who may not continue music instruction once they reach the Hommocks, due to cultural or socioeconomic factors. It extends the district-wide instrument rental program to the middle school grades, and offers free music instruction at lunch and/or after school, as well as through the district’s summer co-op camp. This award supports a third year of funding for a grant provided by MSF last year, and is funded through donations pledged at the 2006 MSF Spring Gala.

FACILITIES

A Photographic Rendering of the Life of the MHS Community

MHS

Large photographs will be professionally shot, mounted, and hung in public areas of the high school, giving a sense of the vibrancy of student life, and the breadth and diversity of the curricular and extracurricular activities that take place there. Students and staff will have input in choosing the photographs and the locations where they will be displayed.

Library Seating

MHS

These funds will provide additional tables and chairs for the reading area of the high school library to accommodate more students. They will match the existing furniture in the library. The district will match this grant with an additional \$6,322.

Outdoor Seating

MHS

The MHS Student Council applied for this grant for outdoor tables and benches for the Post Road side of the High School and the gazebo area outside the Student Café, which students will use during lunch and free periods, greatly increasing the amount of outdoor seating and enhancing student interaction and conversation.

LITERACY AND ENRICHMENT

Dinosaur, Trains and Mother Goose Nurturing Our Youngest Readers **Mamaroneck Avenue Pre-K**

The district's preschool program for three-to-five-year-olds will receive much-needed age-appropriate and culturally relevant books. This grant also provides funding for the professional training of volunteers and staff who will work in a special section of the Mamaroneck Avenue School library designed specifically for preschoolers.

First Grade P.A.L.S. **Central**

A wide variety of literacy materials will be purchased to meet the diverse needs of students in Central School's first-grade program, Promoting Academic Literacy Success. The materials will support a multi-sensory approach to the teaching of reading and writing.

Small Treasures Early Learning Program **Preschool**

This early childhood and parent education program, privately funded and offered by the district, is designed to develop learning readiness in children from birth to three years of age, and to help address the achievement gap by providing enriching experiences to our youngest community members. This grant will provide books for the children as well as establish a parent and staff resource library.

Expanding Horizons: Enrichment for Central School Flagship Program **Central**

This grant will help expand and enrich the curriculum in this successful after-school program. The staff will plan and develop differentiated activities to complement existing grade-level studies, and appropriate materials will be purchased to enhance learning through hands-on experiences.

Guys Read **Hommocks**

In the world of young adolescent literacy, the gender gap between boys' and girls' reading is a hot topic of concern. This grant supports the purchase of book collections geared toward the interests of boys for middle school English classrooms, as well as the reading lab and library at Hommocks. A "Guys Read" Sharepoint website will also be launched where boys can participate in an ongoing online conversation about books.

The Reading and Writing Lounge **Hommocks**

Students are more likely to develop a lifelong love of reading and writing when they have a comfortable and welcoming space in which to work. This grant will be used to create an inviting environment in three classrooms at the Hommocks, with stereo listening centers for use with audio books; comfortable seating for reading, writing and small-group discussion; storage to make classroom books and communal writing supplies easily accessible; and appealing visual displays.

History Alive! **Hommocks**

History Alive! is a program designed to make history come alive for middle school students. Sixth and seventh grade teachers will receive training and materials to employ new instructional strategies in teaching the NY State social studies curriculum. Students will be challenged to analyze historical events through a variety of lenses, grapple with big ideas, problem-solve, and work cooperatively. Materials include supplemental reading and background information, visuals, audio tracks, student worksheets and assessments, and final projects.

Jump Start to the Twenty-First Century: Researchers are Readers **District**

This grant will provide new core collections of science and technology books in each of the district's six school libraries. Recognizing that keeping current is crucial in this curriculum area, each librarian will choose books based on the specific needs of their schools.

MISCELLANEOUS

"Parents Night Out" Speaker Series

District

An evening speaker series will be created for parents throughout the district. Well-known leaders in their fields will be invited to speak on topics related to parenting that are of interest to a broad range of parents. Spanish translation will be offered and the speakers will be televised on LMC-TV when possible.

An Evening of Entertainment for MHS Students

MHS

The high school and Student Council are always seeking safe, fun and appropriate activities to engage students on weekend evenings. This grant will fund the first event, featuring Tom De Luca, a nationally known hypnotist who regularly performs on college campuses across the country. Admission fees will provide seed money to fund future evening events.

Post-Secondary Access for Latino Middle-Grade Students (PALMS)

Hommocks

In November, Hommocks was one of three middle schools in the U.S. to be awarded a two-year grant of \$10,000 by the Educational Development Center to participate in the PALMS program. PALMS seeks to improve the life chances of Latino youth by opening doors to postsecondary education. The specific outreach program for Hommocks will be announced later this spring. This funding will help implement the program, and its outcome will be shared with middle schools around the country. This grant is funded in part by the Barbara Bennett-Rones Memorial Foundation.

Interactive Communication Center

Mamaroneck Avenue

An interactive communication center will be piloted near the new entrance to Mamaroneck Avenue School. It will consist of a wall-mounted plasma screen, speakers, a computer, and a touchpad to navigate an on-screen menu. Its objective is to provide media enrichment before, during, and after school and to provide students with additional opportunities to learn about and use multimedia. Programming will include streaming video clips, news broadcasts, and virtual tours of museums. Selections will change on a regular basis according to the curricular units being studied in the school.

Grant Research and Development

District

This grant provides funding for the district to hire a consultant/grant writer with experience in public education. This individual will identify and apply for funding opportunities from private and corporate foundations to finance a variety of district initiatives such as technology, narrowing achievement gaps, early literacy, and more.

