

**MAMARONECK SCHOOLS FOUNDATION
GRANT AWARDS FOR
2015-2016**

The Mamaroneck Schools Foundation is pleased to announce funding of 25 grants for the 2015-2016 school year. The grants, which total \$206,326, will have an impact at all six district schools, as well as on the entire community.

LITERACY AND LANGUAGE ARTS

Let's Talk – Learning How to Discuss Texts

Hommocks

This grant will bring Donna Santmann, a nationally recognized literacy expert and author of the professional text, "Shades of Meaning: Comprehension and Interpretation in Middle School", to Hommocks to provide a day of professional development for all English and Literacy teachers. Ms. Santmann will share strategies for engaging students in talk about texts, be it whole class, small group or in partnership. Talking gives students the opportunity to build larger thinking, and to hear and respond to ideas from their classmates. This grant will lead to increased student-generated thinking and discussion, thus increasing student autonomy, voice and engagement.

Engaging Readers in Co-Teach Classrooms

Mamaroneck Avenue

Co-taught classrooms often have a widespread range of learners, making it difficult for students to work in heterogeneous groups. This grant will provide students in the 3rd and 4th grade co-teach classrooms with a wider variety of fiction and non-fiction materials to read or listen to. Materials will be provided in a variety of formats so students can access the same curriculum in an appropriate and engaging manner. Some students may access the topic through graphic novels or magazines, while others may be reading chapter books. Students may listen to an audio book or use a LiveScribe pen (permitting the pre-recording of information) but they will all share the same grade-level literacy experience.

Building Reader Engagement through New and Noteworthy Texts*

Central

This grant awards funds to create a lending library in the Reading Academic Intervention Services (AIS) Room at Central School. The collection of books will be used to foster enthusiasm for independent reading by matching students receiving AIS support, who often struggle to find engaging books during independent reading time, with highly engaging, appropriately leveled texts. This grant will also serve to revitalize classroom libraries by opening the lending library to classroom teachers and offering opportunities for teachers to obtain knowledge of new and noteworthy titles and the structural complexities of various texts. **This grant is partially funded by the Diane G. Millstein endowment.*

Helping Writers Find Power

Hommocks (primary)/All Schools

This grant will bring literacy specialist Jeff Anderson to Hommocks to provide a large group workshop for Hommocks English and Special Education teachers, 9th grade English and AIS/literacy support teachers, Hommocks and elementary school literacy coaches, and 5th grade teachers who wish to attend. Mr. Anderson will demonstrate methods for helping students become more reflective and powerful writers by analyzing how good writing works, including noticing how writers vary sentences, use grammar and syntax to enhance meaning, and develop ideas. An additional session will be provided for Hommocks teachers, during which they will more closely examine how to use novels and texts in their own classrooms to engage students in the kind of powerful writing supported by Mr. Anderson.

Bridging STE(A)M and Literacy – Author Visit by Sam Kean**MHS**

This grant will fund a visit by Sam Kean, author of several STEM oriented nonfiction books to present a talk to 10th graders taking Chemistry at MHS (though others may be able to attend as well). The objectives, in line with the Common Core's emphasis on nonfiction works and more technical reading, include helping students make connections between literature and science and to develop a greater understanding of this inter-relationship. Students will have an opportunity to hear the author's presentation and engage in a dialogue to learn about how authors combine their areas of interest with writing in a way that appeals to a wide audience. Students will also be able to explore their curiosity and interests at a tinkering session to be offered in connection with this presentation. An additional goal is to encourage students to pursue courses and extracurricular activities in the STEM areas.

Out of the Classroom Reading - Author Visit from E. Lockhart**Hommocks/MHS**

This grant will bring award winning young adult (YA) author E. Lockhart to talk to students at Hommocks and MHS. Ms. Lockhart's books are popular amongst Hommocks and MHS students and her most recent book, *We Were Liars*, has received rave reviews from *The New York Times*, *Booklist* and *Kirkus Review*. This visit supports the independent reading initiative at each school, and will continue to strengthen the culture of reading in each building. This "out of the classroom" literary experience will provide students with an authentic experience and a chance to connect with a creative writer. Ms. Lockhart's visit will include up to four presentations and a lunch with faculty or students.

STEM (SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING AND MATH)**Data Collection Technology for Data Acquisition and Analysis****MHS**

This grant provides funds to purchase 12 SpectroVis Plus Spectrophotometers and 12 SpectroVis Optical Fibers to be used by the MHS Chemistry and Biology departments for a variety of labs. Spectrophotometry is an extremely important tool used in chemical research. The equipment will allow AP Chemistry, Regents Chemistry, Biology and Forensic Science classes to perform hands-on experiments that they have not been able to undertake with the current equipment. These labs will provide students with a deeper understanding of the concepts of spectrophotometry, thereby enhancing the curriculum.

Fostering Innovation - Enhancing the Hommocks Technology Program**Hommocks**

This grant will provide funds to purchase new equipment to expand and enhance the engineering and technology activities that Hommocks students engage in during their technology education classes. Approximately 1,200 Hommocks students participate in the Technology courses each year; the equipment purchased through this grant will better prepare students for the offerings at MHS and will provide students with the foundational skills necessary to prepare them for the work force of the future. The grant will fund drone kits, a vinyl cutter, electronics building supplies and more! Through this grant, students will become more tech savvy and learn many aspects of design, prototyping and how to use programming in engaging, hands-on activities.

Outdoor Learning in Grades K-2**Chatsworth**

This grant provides a variety of tools and materials to support a hands-on approach to teaching science concepts to K-2 students through outdoor learning. Students will explore the natural world by manipulating materials that encourage connections to concepts about the five senses, composting, gardening, rocks and minerals, life-cycles, weather changes and the impact of our natural resources. Classroom learning will be authenticated by bridging concepts with hands-on experiences outdoors. In

addition, outdoor play and discovery equipment purchased through this grant will allow students to experiment with pulleys, magnets, ramps, water, sand, and explore gravity, velocity, engineering and building, developing critical thinking and problem-solving habits through exploration and discovery during play.

Energy and Environmental Dashboard for MHS Science

MHS

This grant enables students to become aware of energy consumption (electricity and gas) and water use throughout MHS via an energy dashboard. The dashboard, connected to MHS utilities, will relay real-time information that will be accessible to all MHS students on-line—through a classroom computer, a personal computer, iPad or SMART phone. The dashboard will also include weather data and helpful unit comparisons for resources used. This data can be used by teachers to educate students on the consumption of energy and water, key resources that society needs to better manage in order to create a more sustainable world. MHS science teachers will also now have access to a tool that displays live information that can be used when discussing environmental/sustainability issues and related issues of recycling, air and water quality, etc. The dashboard can be used by Biology, Chemistry, Physics, and Environmental Science teachers throughout MHS, as well as by Original Science Research students and the Ecology club.

MUSIC AND ART

Digital Art and Graphic Design Studio at MHS*

MHS

Through the funding of 16 iMac Computers, one MacBook Pro Laptop, and one Epson photo printer, this grant enables the creation of a new digital art studio at the High School. The design studio will allow the art department to launch a new elective strand in graphic design, better preparing students interested in digital arts to study and work in design fields. More extensive offerings in media art and design also paves the way for increased collaboration with the computer science program at the high school. Art and Computer Science students can engage in project-based learning together, developing their research, analytical and problem-solving skills, promoting innovative thinking across disciplines, and preparing students for success in the global 21st century. This new elective will also significantly increase the art department's photography offerings. **This grant is partially funded by the Barbara Bennett-Rones Memorial Endowment.*

Mobile Art Display Towers

Hommocks

This grant provides the Hommocks with three mobile towers which will be used to display student artwork in the Commons. Twice a year the art department has art shows for the entire school, and these display towers will create the feeling of a mini-museum so students can view their own work and the work of their peers in a thoughtful and respectful manner. With over 300 pieces of artwork on display, these towers will allow for artwork to be properly displayed and will be able to stay up for a longer period of time and create less damage to the walls of the Hommocks.

Electric Strings for Elementary School Orchestras

Central/Mamaroneck Avenue

This grant will provide two electric string violins (one each) for Central and Mamaroneck Avenue schools. These new instruments will be a pilot program to expose students to the world of electric strings, enhancing the current strings program. Because these instruments can be used to play more contemporary music, some students may become more interested in stringed instruments. For students who are interested, these instruments can also be used in concerts and school events. If there is enough

interest, an electric ensemble could be formed, outside of class, during lunch or afterschool. The electric string players could also be incorporated into both the MAS and Central orchestras.

Face to Face With Masterpieces at Museums

Mamaroneck Avenue

This grant provides field trips for approximately 240 Mamaroneck Avenue Students in three grades to visit the Metropolitan Museum of Art and Museum of Modern Art in New York City, and the Katonah Art Museum. These visits will allow students will explore masterpieces of art in premier settings and learn how to look at art through various perspectives, talk about art in an informed manner, and learn how to conduct themselves as patrons at art museums or exhibitions. Classroom teachers will plan curricular units in advance of, and in connection with, the trips. It is also hoped that students' appreciation of art will lead to more engaging interactions at Mamaroneck Avenue art shows and that students' interest in learning more about art and the careers of artists will grow.

SPECIAL EDUCATION

Therapeutic Learning Centers

Central/Chatsworth/Mamaroneck Avenue

This grant will provide materials to outfit therapeutic learning centers at Central, Chatsworth and Mamaroneck Avenue schools. These learning centers provide a place for students with considerable challenging behaviors and distractibility to go; this benefits not only these students, but minimizes disruption to other learners in general classrooms since distracted students will have a place to go when needed. The rooms also serve as a second learning setting for students who require a less stimulating environment. Therapeutic learning centers are already being implemented in MHS, Hommocks and Murray Avenue, so this grant enables the District to provide learning centers in all six schools.

Multisensory Learning for 8:1:2 Classes

Mamaroneck Avenue

This grant provides 10 weeks of music therapy and 10 weeks of art therapy for the students in Mamaroneck Avenue School's 8:1:2 program in grades K-5. These specialized classes meet the academic and social/emotional needs of severely disabled students, and this therapy program uses music and art media and visual images to nurture children's emotional, physical, sensory, cognitive, and social development. This grant will also supply additional sensory equipment to be used in the 8:1:2 classrooms and therapy rooms throughout the school year to increase multisensory learning. Multisensory environments improve the development of thought, intelligence and social skills, and have many benefits including helping students increase concentration and focus, improving coordination, encouraging exploration and creativity, developing language and promoting social interaction.

Dialectical Behavior Therapy for Training Teachers

Hommocks

This grant will provide classroom teachers at Hommocks with training in dialectical behavior therapy (DBT) from Cognitive Behavioral Consultants. The training would provide teachers with techniques and strategies to use when working with students in therapeutic and academic support classes, also known as the TASC program. DBT takes a compassionate view of psychological disorders to promote understanding. The training will enable teachers to employ effective strategies to meet students' complex social and emotional needs. District psychologist and secondary guidance counselors have been trained, but it is classroom teachers who have to implement the strategies and help students internalize them and transfer them to academic situations. Ultimately DBT has increased the ability for kids to be in school on a regular basis. Successful application of the DBT model has helped keep students from out-of-district placements. Since up to 30 teachers can attend this training, MHS teachers may also participate.

HEALTH/WELLNESS/PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Water Coolers and Bottle Filling Stations for all Schools

District

This grant will fund the purchase of nine water cooler/bottle filling stations to be placed at each of the six schools in the District. The stations will be installed at an existing water fountain location (preferably in the cafeteria) in each of the elementary schools, two at Hommocks and three at the High School (near the cafeteria and close to the entrances by the athletic fields). Providing students and staff with an easy way to refill their water bottles supports the District's commitment to promoting health and wellness as essential elements of students' academic success and well-being because it would not only encourage students to drink more water, which is healthier than many other juice or sports drinks, but would also be economical and environmentally friendly to the extent that it would discourage the use of disposable plastic water bottles.

Alternative Physical Activity for Restricted Students

Murray Avenue

This grant provides the Murray Avenue School Physical Education Department with two recumbent bikes and one hand cycle to offer an alternate physical activity during PE class for students when they are restricted due to an injury. With the appropriate doctor's permission, instead of simply observing the class and being unable to participate in an active way if injured, the recumbent bike could be used by students with upper body injuries and the hand cycle for those with lower body injuries. In addition, research has shown that children struggling with hyperactivity or attention difficulties can benefit from simple aerobic exercise, providing a safe, challenging, supervised atmosphere that all students can benefit from.

Heart Rate Monitors for Physical Education

Hommocks/MHS

This grant will fund the purchase of 100 heart rate monitors with additional straps (including a one year license) to be used in the physical education classes at both the Hommocks and the High School. Each student in a particular PE class will be able to wear a heart rate monitor under their clothing, by strapping it across their chest with an adjustable velcro strap. The monitor provides on-the-spot feedback as to the intensity of activity level and effort to both student and teacher. The student will know how hard he or she is working and whether or not he or she has entered the Target Heart Rate Zone. The information relays directly to the teacher's I-pad so the teacher can provide immediate feedback and suggestions. After each workout the data is uploaded on to the software and information for each student is kept for as many workouts as the teacher desires. Records can be used for feedback, planning, parent reports, and as an evaluation of PE activity.

Adjustable Basketball Goals at Chatsworth

Chatsworth

This grant provides funds for the purchase of four adjustable basketball hoops to replace the existing 10' basketball hoops in the Forest Park Gym at Chatsworth Avenue School. The new hoops will be used by the entire school during PE classes, at recess, and in afterschool programs. The adjustable hoops will allow students in the lower grades to experience the success of making shots while learning proper shooting technique.

ADDITIONAL CLASSROOM ELECTIVES AND STUDENT ENRICHMENT

Creating a Culinary Career Pathway at MHS

MHS

This grant will provide the seed money for the creation of an exciting new culinary career “pathway” at MHS. The culinary pathway will be an elective sequence in the culinary arts at the high school. MHS currently has “pathways” in other elective areas such as Technology, Video and Photography. These funds will enable the District to work with a consultant to facilitate the design, curriculum, and resource requirements, along with professional development needed to implement this new elective pathway.

Greening our Garbage – Composting in our Community

Hommocks

This grant provides funding for the purchase and implementation of a composter at Hommocks. The Rocket is a unique composter designed for treatment of biodegradable organic waste. All middle school students will be taught to separate their garbage and discard food waste in designated compost receptacles, which will then be deposited in the Rocket, where the process of biodegradation will occur. Supporting the project with classroom instruction, 7th grade science students will learn the biological process of decomposition, while students in Family and Consumer Science classes will learn the concepts of food waste and composting. In the spring, compost will be applied to the Hommocks greenhouse, garden and planters. Although based at Hommocks, this grant, supported by the Town of Mamaroneck Supervisor and the Larchmont Mamaroneck Joint Garbage Commission, will serve the entire community: the leftover compost will be shared for gardening throughout the District and evening meetings open to residents will instruct on backyard composting. This grant will promote our school district as a role model for composting and environmentally friendly waste disposal.

Growing Seeds, Minds, and Connections – Garden Enhancements Phase 2

Hommocks

This grant will provide a new fence to the thriving Hommocks School Garden. Currently, the garden is plagued by local rabbits and other wildlife and the original, temporary fence has become a safety hazard. Since it was first planted in 2012, the Hommocks Garden has become an integral part of Hommocks and the community at large. In the fall, students in the Family and Consumer Science classes enjoy using the garden's produce, such as kale, peppers, broccoli, tomatoes, lettuce, and Swiss chard in their classes. In June, before the end of school, students from the environment club harvest produce and deliver it to the Mamaroneck Food Pantry. In the summer, students from the Hommocks Co-op Camp take care of the garden. The Hommocks Garden continues to benefit our students and community, and will now have a safe and protective fence.

MAS is Moving: Lunchtime Soccer Instruction

Mamaroneck Avenue

This grant will provide soccer instruction during lunchtime recess for Mamaroneck Avenue students in grades 1 through 4. The grant will allow for two 8-week sessions, one in the fall and one in the spring. Instructors will work with the students on soccer skills development and organize scrimmages. The program will improve the overall fitness of the students and give children who may not have access to the town's recreational or travel soccer leagues a chance to learn the sport and, perhaps, go on to play on the middle and/or high school teams. Additionally, encouraging students to play together will help to strengthen the MAS community and lead to a more unified school community.