



THE MINNETONKA PUBLIC
SCHOOLS FOUNDATION

TEACHER GRANT PROGRAM

2011 – 2012 Teacher Grants

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Clear Springs Elementary

Grant #30: Pancakes for Peace y Panquecas por la Paz

Lead Teacher/Staff: Jacqueline Basile

Summary: To encourage students to become active and positive bystanders to help change the bullying culture, a monthly “pancakes for peace” breakfast will be held to reward positive leadership among Clear Springs students.

Awarded \$300 from the Youth Citizenship Development Fund

Grant #38: No Shelf Required

Lead Teacher/Staff: Mary Jane Narog

Summary: Different types of eReaders will be purchased for student in grades k-5, including Nooks and Fables. These devices will be used to support all levels of readers in motivating students to read, supporting reading instruction, and to use in obtaining newer, popular books that are not available for check out in the library.

Awarded \$700 (Requested \$1391)

Grant #80: SMART Document Camera SDC-330 with Mixed Reality

Lead Teacher/Staff: Deb Drexler

Summary: The purchase of a SMART camera with this grant will allow teachers to display items in real time to a classroom of students...anything from a display of objects that have been scanned or a 3D object that can be manipulated under the camera and viewed on the SMARTboard. The camera will work with SMART’s education specific “mixed reality content” which offers an innovative way to foster deeper

engagement and understanding by enabling students to interact with 2D, 3D, animated and audio-enriched content.

Awarded \$799

Deephaven Elementary School

Grant #3: Multi-Cultural Biographies

Lead Teacher/Staff: Malorie Brackamp

Summary: This grant will provide biographical resources representing minorities. In second grade, the language arts curriculum includes a unit on biographies. By providing more resources in English and Spanish, students in both English and Spanish speaking classes can understand the contributions of people of diverse backgrounds to our country and our world.

Awarded \$200 from the Nick Duff Multicultural Fund (Requested \$505)

Grant #50: Enhancing Learning through Video

Lead Teacher/Staff: Diane Daniels

Summary: This project will involve 4th grade children in their own learning by using Flip video cameras to support and document their learning and to help children capture and reflect upon significant aspects of their learning. For example: science students will record science experiments creating a visual science lab. Language arts students will create video representations of poems and other genres, and math students will record different rap songs and algorithms used to solve math problems and to help them remember critical math concepts.

Awarded \$1100

Grant #60: iLearn with iPads

Lead Teacher/Staff: Kelli Whiteside

Summary: Incorporating effective, hands-on technology tools into every classroom is an integral goal of creating a 21st century learning environment for our students. iPads are highly engaging and intuitive for all students and easy for teachers to incorporate into instructional practice. They reward curiosity, incite exploration, and are effective for differentiating learning, collaboration, and inquiry-based teaching and learning methods. Having iPads available for more teachers and specialists will allow these engaging tools to be used for more students throughout the school.

Awarded \$4460 (Requested \$21,030)

Excelsior Elementary School

Grant #12: Family Culture Fest

Lead Teacher/Staff: Jennifer Kitt

Summary: In order to promote cultural awareness, knowledge of arts from other countries, and community building within the school, Excelsior is introducing a new program currently titled 'Family Culture Fest'. This grant will support the goals of educating the students, their families and staff about other cultures in a fun, inclusive way and to prepare our children to be 'Global Citizens' of the world. The event will expose students and families to other cultures and arts through family Ambassadors that will represent food, art, artifacts, games and interesting facts about the culture of their choice.

Awarded \$1600 from the Nick Duff Multicultural Fund (Requested \$2300)

Grant #23: Book Nooks**Lead Teacher/Staff: Connie Kusche**

Summary: This grant will support the funding of Barnes & Noble Book Nooks for student and teacher use. Teachers can use the technology for guided reading groups and student will be able to check out the Nooks from the Media Center. Students at all reading levels will have broader access to reading material consistent to their reading level. The Nooks also include learning tools such as a dictionary and underlining that will allow teachers to work with students to identify such items as key words, paragraphs, etc.

Awarded \$1500 (Requested \$2922)

Grant #40: Motivating**Lead Teacher/Staff: Heather Kohnen**

Summary: Struggling readers in grades 3-5 will be provided with Nooks to support their reading development and skills. Nooks allow students to read appropriately leveled books without feeling embarrassed or being signaled out as a struggling reader. Research supports students reading at the correct level in order to gain in reading proficiency.

Awarded \$600 (Requested \$1032)

Grant #42: The Nook Hook**Lead Teacher/Staff: Lisa Reisenauer**

Summary: This grant will use Nooks and eBooks in the third grade classroom. The Nooks allow students' access to a greater number of books to meet their reading needs than is normally available in a classroom. Nooks have features that make reading easier for students, such as changing text size and looking up unfamiliar words. When a student reads with a Nook, the size of the book isn't visible to others which helps their self-esteem, as well as making it easier for them to choose reading material at the appropriate level which helps develop reading proficiency.

Awarded \$1200 (Requested \$2187)

Grant #48: Science Soar**Lead Teacher/Staff: Brooke Igl**

Summary: This project will spark the imagination and curiosity of students in grades k-5 by providing them with fun, interactive and educational workshops that instill a clear understanding of what science is really about and how it affects their world. Workshops will be held for each classroom in each grade level covering such topics as bugs, dinosaurs, gravity, chemistry and weather. The workshops will be designed to include STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) in fun and exciting experiments in a laboratory-like setting.

Awarded \$2000 (Requested \$3850)

Grant #66: Alpha-Omega: Science/Technology/Engineering/Math**Lead Teacher/Staff: Shane Weber**

Summary: The purpose of this grant is to pair MHS IB students with 2nd grade students to venture through the scientific process toward new discovery and thinking in inquiry based science labs. Students will meet initially, continue their experiment collaboration via Skyping, collect data and utilize on-line learning, and create a multi-media presentation to present their findings. The grant will help to provide web-cams and materials for experiments and displaying results.

Awarded \$250 (Requested \$743)

Grant #67: What If?—Young Inventor's Workshops!**Lead Teacher/Staff: Amy O'Neill**

Summary: This grant will provide materials for elementary students attending the WHAT IF—Young Inventors Workshops, which are intended to spark creativity toward new inventions. Students will be

guided to use inventive thinking and incorporate the STEM process of problem identification and solution. Through the Inventor's Process, students are actively engaged in team work, problem solving, brainstorming, research, testing, and modifications...which will culminate in a project entered in the school's Imagination Fair and the Regional Inventor's Fair.

Awarded \$638

Grant #89: Weaving Loom

Lead Teacher/Staff: Sani Glenn

Summary: This grant will provide a weaving loom for an elementary art classroom. It ties directly in to the new state standards which include Native American art instruction. The history portion of the standard will be taught in the beginning of the year, and throughout the year, when students are finished with art projects, they can spend time creating a large, long-term weaving project.

Awarded \$314 from the Minnetonka Alumni Association Fine Arts Endowment Fund

Groveland Elementary School

Grant #7: Physics Force

Lead Teacher/Staff: Brent Frank

Summary: Why implode a pop can when a 55 gallon drum is available? This grant supports bringing the Physics Force outreach program to Groveland students. It is an outreach program of the Institute of Technology at the University of Minnesota whose goal is to make Physics fun! For over 10 years they have attracted standing-room only audiences in Minnesota and have been featured on Newton's Apple and at Disney's Epcot Center. Physics Force utilizes the knowledge and experience of established high school teachers and professors from the university to share physics concepts in an engaging way.

Awarded \$500

Grant #11: Extended Learning through Multi-Media Resources

Lead Teacher/Staff: Niki Danou

Summary: The immersion classroom uses the same quality curriculum as the English classrooms but lacks many of the supplemental or enhancement materials that benefit students in their learning. This grant will support the purchase of educational DVDs and games that will support the areas of science, language arts and math.

Awarded \$250

Grant #58: iPad Technology to Motivate 3rd Grade Learners

Lead Teacher/Staff: Amy Gillespie

Summary: This grant will help integrate iPad technology into the daily language arts and math curriculum of third graders, as well as engage their kinesthetic and visual learning styles. iPads are appropriate for 21st century learners, and allow teachers to differentiate instruction. Students can work independently or collaboratively with the iPads, which allow students to express creativity through technology as well as develop critical thinking as they read text or engage in interactive math, science, and other content activities.

Awarded \$1800 (Requested \$2720)

Grant #70: Dance Residency: Multicultural Dance Experience

Lead Teacher/Staff: Christine Denson

Summary: The experience provided by this grant will expose elementary students to historic and contemporary dances and help them to recognize and respect the importance of dance contributions from a variety of culturally specific groups. Students will learn culturally specific folk dances and popular social

dances with a dance resident. This program weaves art in with physical education and adds depth to the current curriculum. An evening social with parents will allow students to share and perform what they have learned.

Awarded \$1000 from MPSF & the Nick Duff Multicultural Fund (Requested \$1750)

Grant #86: Kid Wind!

Lead Teacher/Staff: Diane Rundquist

Summary: This grant will provide a kit with all materials to teach 4th & 5th grade students WindWise curriculum. It involves students in hands-on STEM experiences in the context of clean energy production. It will engage them in a meaningful discussion of energy resources and invite them to develop creative solutions to complex design challenges, working collaboratively to develop future energy solutions.

Awarded \$683

Grant #88: STEM Academy for Future Scientists

Lead Teacher/Staff: Sara Lovelace

Summary: Elementary students will have the opportunity to watch and participate in demonstrations by a scientist that illustrate scientific principles and be involved in hands on experimentation to increase understanding of these topics. Through engaging presentations, students will develop an interest in science and technology, recognize the role of scientists in developing technology, and foster their curiosity and awareness of scientific principles associated with technology.

Awarded \$800 (Requested \$2800)

Minnewashta Elementary School

Grant #2: Video Camera for the News

Lead Teacher/Staff: Mabel Crandell

Summary: For students in the immersion program, practicing the language makes perfect! So providing the immersion students with unique and fun ways of practicing their language skills is considerably helpful in a student's development. This grant will help fund the purchase of video cameras that will be used to help set up a news show where students can record and share events that have happened in the school or in their neighborhoods. All the news will be presented in Spanish and if an interview is made with a person who speaks Spanish, the student will need to translate the interview into English. The news will be shared with the class and posted to Blackboard for future reference.

Awarded \$600 (Requested \$1600)

Grant #10: Hi-Lo Library for Struggling Readers

Lead Teacher/Staff: Heidi Schuchman

Summary: It can be a challenge to find books for struggling readers that are at their reading level and of interest to them. Many struggling readers are not able to read the books that are popular with other students their age which can create frustration and lead to reduced reading activity outside of school, thus falling further behind. Independent reading has a huge effect on students' progress in reading fluency and comprehension. This grant will help support the development of a classroom library that contains books that are high interest at lower reading levels, to accommodate the students' special needs in the area of reading.

Awarded \$600 (Requested \$1242)

Grant #28: Six Traits of Writing Collections**Lead Teacher/Staff: Lynn Kurth**

Summary: This grant will support the Six Traits of Writing curriculum in use by the District. The grant will provide all third grade classrooms with a set of literature that specifically targets the Six Traits of Writing: ideas, organization, voice, word choice, sentence fluency and conventions. This will provide third grade students with the opportunity to read and experience literature that specifically engages them through the use of the Six Traits of Writing.

Awarded \$1042**Grant #52: National Geography Bee Study Materials****Lead Teacher/Staff: Joy Curran**

Summary: This grant will supply 5th grade students with supplementary materials to help them learn about world geography and global awareness. The materials will also be used to help students prepare for State and National Geography Bee competitions.

Awarded \$500**Grant #79: Art Room Library and Resource Center****Lead Teacher/Staff: Meghan Byram**

Summary: The intent of this grant is to maximize learning opportunities in the art classroom by establishing a library of learning materials: story books, specific genre or artist materials, academic games and puzzles, and various other materials. Students will be able to use these resources after finishing an art project and it will also be a resource center for students and teachers. The collection will encourage the desire for more knowledge and understanding of the world through art.

Awarded \$1600 from the Minnetonka Alumni Association Fine Arts Endowment Fund (Requested \$2000)**Scenic Heights Elementary School****Grant #9: Multi-Cultural Award Winning Books****Lead Teacher/Staff: Melinda Barry**

Summary: As the population of students at Scenic Heights becomes more diverse, it is a continuing goal to ensure that the media collection reflects that diversity. There are several book awards that honor multicultural children's books. This grant will support the purchase of elementary appropriate books that have earned the IRA Notable books for a Global Society, Pura Belpre book award, Coretta Scott King book award and others. The books will be promoted on the all school news program and displayed in the media center. All students will have access to these books and will be encouraged to explore them.

Awarded \$500 from the Nick Duff Multicultural Fund (Requested \$600)**Grant #24: Camera for Online Portfolio and Art Advocacy****Lead Teacher/Staff: Jonathan Maki**

Summary: This grant will help support the advancement of understanding photography as an art form. Utilizing a high quality digital camera, students will be able to develop a student portfolio that will be shared with others and assist in developing language art skills by developing artistic statements for the photographs. Students will also learn how to 'market' their art to understand how creating awareness of an art form inspires 21st century skills such as communication, collaboration, critical thinking and creativity.

Awarded \$429**Grant #32: Where's the Math?****Lead teacher/Staff: Anita Britton**

Summary: At the National Council of Teacher's of Math conference, staff learned how everyday board games can provide opportunities to enhance children's math skills. This grant will take advantage of

children's board games which specifically build logical reasoning opportunities in using money, telling time, counting, patterning, etc. The games will be available in all of the third grade math classrooms for children to use during breaks and when their classroom work is completed. Students will complete a check list called "Where's the Math?" to help them identify the types of math they are using while playing the games.

Awarded \$396

Grant #46: Chinese Music Residency

Lead teacher/Staff: Mary Renz

Summary: The grant will partially fund a Chinese Music Residency in which students will be introduced to Chinese music and will learn to sing or play Chinese music. The residency will culminate with a performance for the school and parents.

Awarded \$1100 from the Minnetonka Alumni Association Fine Arts Endowment Fund

Minnetonka Middle School East

Grant #15: iPod Touch/iPad for Communication

Lead Teacher/Staff: Joan Lerdal

Summary: Today's technology provides a significant opportunity to support special education students who have learning and communication challenges. These students face challenges including cerebral palsy, limited or no verbal skills, fluency/voice issues and others. This grant will support funding of iPod Touch/iPad technologies that can be programmed for individual students or groups based on their needs in the classroom that will increase social interaction in the classroom through such avenues as visual presentations, voice recognition, speech modeling, problem solving, and many others.

Awarded \$900 (Requested \$1685)

Grant #16: Seeing Science

Lead Teacher/Staff: Becky Holscher

Summary: This grant will fund the use of Flip Cam technology in science education. Using technology to record observations and projects is a critical component of scientific analysis. Students will have the opportunity to use the Flip Cam to record demonstrations, presentations and interviews and directly link them to computers for instant viewing and analysis.

Awarded \$825 (Requested \$2060)

Grant #39: Livescribe Echo Smart Pen for Math Instruction

Lead Teacher/Staff: Kate Ohrt

Summary: Livescribe pens will be used to support math instruction at the middle school level in three different ways. First, the pens will allow staff to record everything that is written and spoken while creating a lesson and/or an answer key. This will allow students who are having difficulty with homework to access the lesson again through a link on Blackboard or Schoology. Second, the pens are an excellent resource to use with Math reserves. They will help to maintain the quality of math instruction. Thirdly, the students can use the pens while they are doing homework. This would allow the teacher to monitor the student's problem solving strategies and offer assistance where needed.

Awarded \$510

Grant #55: Check Out this Video!

Lead Teacher/Staff: Nancy Kennedy

Summary: This project will put state-of-the-art tools into the hands of students and staff at MME. Six Flip Mino HD video cameras will be purchased for use in the media center. The cameras are quick and easy to use for shooting video and saving projects directly to a computer or flash drive. The cameras will be available for check out to all students to be used in numerous projects such as: creating presentations,

recording samples of speech in world language classes, recording movement routines for a concert or musical piece and creating public service announcements.

Awarded \$540 (Requested \$1080)

Grant #57: Science Just Right

Lead Teacher/Staff: Barbara Kalczynski

Summary: This grant will provide needed support for ELL students in the area of science. Understanding science concepts can be difficult for any student, but ELL students have the additional challenge of learning the language of science while learning the English language. It is important to provide engaging, age-appropriate materials that match students' comprehension levels. This is science just right! Science books and materials will be purchased that support concepts in physical, life and earth science across all three grade levels in middle school.

Awarded \$800 (Requested \$1134)

Grant #72: Building Upon a 21st Century Reading Platform

Lead Teacher/Staff: Eva Boyd

Summary: This grant will help to integrate technology into a reading based curriculum. It will allow middle school students to use Kindles for reading in the language arts classroom. Advantages are text to speech functionality, included dictionary, ability to enlarge text size, and capability to highlight text, which will expand the ability to reach those students who find reading more difficult.

Awarded \$1050 (Requested \$4218)

Grant #73: Environmental Inquiry Health Issues Labs Kit

Lead Teacher/Staff: Joan Truettner

Summary: Funds for this grant will purchase the hardware to run environmental inquiry labs for 7th grade students. Hands on experiments will allow students to conduct labs that model real life issues such as environmental health risks due to chemicals, and epidemiological methods to investigate risks from biological or chemical agents. Students will research and apply their knowledge from the lab experience and relate it to real world problems.

Awarded \$395

Grant #74: Making Meaningful Connections with Musicians

Lead Teacher/Staff: Heidi Bunde

Summary: The money from this grant will open middle school classroom doors to a wide knowledge base of professional musicians from the Minnesota Orchestra, St Paul Chamber Orchestra and MacPhail Center for Music. Professional musicians will offer students in specific instrument groupings master classes/workshops to improve performance skills and learn about life as a musician. A professional jazz musician will work with students to create improvised solos, and a composer will help students create individual music compositions.

Awarded \$1600 from the Minnetonka Alumni Association Fine Arts Endowment Fund (Requested \$2800)

Grant #75: High Interest/Low Readability Library

Lead Teacher/Staff: Mary Kay Burmesch

Summary: Middle school students are required to log reading minutes, but some students with lower reading levels find it difficult to find age appropriate reading materials at their level. This grant will establish a library of books that look age appropriate, have interesting topics, and are enjoyed by the struggling reader. This will help to build comprehension, vocabulary and fluency skills and help the students gain confidence in their reading ability and therefore encourage them to choose to read more often.

Awarded \$600 (Requested \$1265)

Grant #77: Around the World with iPads**Lead Teacher/Staff: Gina Nelson**

Summary: Enrichment activities and experiences to supplement the current middle school history textbook will be utilized with the help of this grant to purchase iPads. Students will be able to use 21st century technology to take virtual field trips, use online resources to gain knowledge of current events and world facts, listen to podcasts from historical time periods and use many other apps available on iPads. The iPads will be used individually and also allow for collaborative learning opportunities.

Awarded \$1300 (Requested \$3315)

Minnetonka Middle School West**Grant #1: Apple iPod Touch Technology in the Classroom****Lead Teacher/Staff: Margaret Ruffino**

Summary: The intent of the project is to incorporate iPod Touch technology as a resource within the classroom that is directly used by students. Many applications are available that are related to word meaning, word structure, reading comprehension, poetry and many more. Teaching and learning can be differentiated and specific to a particular student's needs while allowing choice in student learning.

Awarded \$1200 (Requested \$3492)

Grant #20: Middle School Archery in the Schools**Lead Teacher/Staff: David M. Olson**

Summary: The National Archery in the Schools Program is a joint venture between state departments of Education and Wildlife. This grant will support incorporating the program as an after school 'club' program that begins in the fall and continues until the Archery in the Schools state competition in March. The sport of archery incorporates the use of Math, Physical Education, Social Studies, Language Arts, and Character Development. Archery allows students of multiple ages/grade levels as well as boys and girls to build self-esteem, confidence and communication skills through physical activity.

Awarded \$1100 (Requested \$1950)

Grant #54: Making Meaningful Connections with Musicians**Lead Teacher/Staff: Laura Berggren**

Summary: The money from this grant will open middle school classroom doors to a wide knowledge base of professional musicians from the Minnesota Orchestra, St Paul Chamber Orchestra and MacPhail Center for Music. Professional musicians will offer students in specific instrument groupings master classes/workshops to improve performance skills and learn about life as a musician. A professional jazz musician will work with students to create improvised solos, and a composer will help students create individual music compositions.

Awarded \$1600 from the Minnetonka Alumni Association Fine Arts Endowment Fund (Requested \$2800)

Joint MME & MMW Grant**Grant #83: Minnesota Opera Residency****Lead Teacher/Staff: Joel Gotz**

Summary: This grant combines current music curriculum into a mini-unit allowing middle school choir students a fun, hands-on and dynamic experience with opera in the classroom. Students will be given a fundamental introduction to opera through an artist working collaboratively with students over a period of time and potentially performing a opera chorus scene.

Awarded \$1300 (Requested \$1920)

Minnetonka High School

Grant #4: Drama Rehearsal Camera

Lead Teacher/Staff: Bryce Larson

Summary: The new Studio Theatre in the Arts Center at Minnetonka High School has recently been completed providing an excellent rehearsal and performance venue. One piece missing from this beautiful facility is a video system capable of recording rehearsals. Capturing rehearsals on video is an excellent way to deliver feedback to the performance participants. More than 500 high school students participate in theater productions each year. This grant will support the investment into a video camera for the MHS drama department.

Awarded \$470 from the Minnetonka Alumni Association Fine Arts Endowment Fund

Grant #6: Community Service in the Student's Future

Lead Teacher/Staff: David Olmstead

Summary: The intent of this grant is to support creating community service awareness to students with disabilities. These students have not had the experience of community service. The grant will support giving students real world hands-on activities that will help promote lifelong community service. The students will take field trips once a month to community service projects such as Feed My Starving Children, homeless shelters and other locations that have a direct positive impact on our community.

Awarded \$500 from the Youth Citizenship Development Fund(Requested \$1200)

Grant #14: ebooks for Striving Readers

Lead Teacher/Staff: Stephanie Brondani

Summary: Roughly 200 students across the high school and two middle schools are known as striving readers – those that are typically 1 to 3 grade reading levels below their actual grade level. These students find reading to be a real struggle and by the time they reach secondary school levels they have deeply entrenched negative attitudes towards reading. This grant will support using e-readers. With the vast array of fiction and non-fiction texts that are available, students will be able to experience “just right” reading material that will increase their motivation and reading success.

Awarded \$1,192 (Requested \$1392)

Grant #17: Costa Rica Student Research Program

Lead Teacher/Staff: Dawn Norton

Summary: MHS is partnering with Seeds of Change, an organization offering a Costa Rican Science Research Experience. The mission is to give students interested in careers in science a hands-on field experience in the rainforests of Costa Rica. A group of students will participate in an onsite research facility and they will work in conjunction with AP and IB Biology students via blogging and video conferencing. The research will focus primarily on studying ecological relationships in leaf cutter ants. This grant will support the overall funding of this exciting program.

Awarded \$800 (Requested \$3000)

Grant #19: iPads for Autism

Lead Teacher/Staff: Michelle Infanger

Summary: The intent of this project is to utilize iPad technology for students in the Autism Spectrum Disorder program at Minnetonka High School. The technology can utilize applications that cater to the individual needs of each student and provide differentiation of instruction methods. Students with autism are highly visual learners and diverse in their intellectual and social capabilities. They are more successful with visuals for processing than verbal directions to learn life skills like social thinking, which includes organization, communications, and expected social skills. This grant will help fund the acquisition of the iPad technology.

Awarded \$1400 (Requested \$3500)

Grant #31: International Studies Technology

Lead Teacher/Staff: Grant Hendrickson

Summary: Technology including headsets, microphones and a laptop will be used to improve the communication between Minnetonka students in the International Studies and Exchange Program and their foreign counterparts. Students will be able to Skype their foreign correspondent from school and contact Russian students who have limited access to technology.

Awarded \$952 from the Nick Duff Multicultural Fund

Grant #34: Technology in ASL

Lead Teacher/Staff: Tracy Washington

Summary: Video cameras will be used to create clips that relate directly to what students are learning in the American Sign Language classroom on a daily basis. Students will be able to review clips at home to support what they learned in class and to help with homework assignments. The clips will also be used to create a video portfolio to show students how they've developed their skills over the course of the year. Staff will also create a repository of students signing at various skill levels. This will provide appropriate modeling for all students across various skill levels to be used in improving their signing.

Awarded \$400 (Requested \$740)

Grant #35: Foundation Science Garden

Lead Teacher/Staff: Gwynneth Wacker

Summary: This grant continues to build on a grant awarded last year. Two additional garden beds will be built at the high school. Hands on inquiry will study design concepts in sun versus shade gardening, porosity rates and composting rates. Environmental studies students will also learn about how the world's population feeds itself compared to other populations. High school students will once again team up with second graders and conduct experiments on fertilization and watering rates.

Awarded \$500 (Requested \$847)

Grant #47: Green Power

Lead Teacher/Staff: David Surver

Summary: Each year the math department at the High School provides graphing calculators for student use. Throughout the math department there are 136 calculators that use 4 AAA batteries each. The life of each battery is less than one year. This means the math department is discarding over 600 batteries per year. This grant will allow the department to purchase rechargeable batteries and a charging station and "Go Green." Rechargeable batteries can last over 5 years. This will also save the math department money that can now be redirected to classroom projects.

Awarded \$500 (Requested \$1000)

Grant #59: Bit by Bit

Lead Teacher/Staff: Brian Olson

Summary: The intent of this project is to improve physical fitness, encourage healthy diet choices and increase awareness of sleep patterns of the participants in the SPANS program, which serves MHS students with emotional and behavioral challenges. The students will use a Fitbit tracker which will monitor fitness data, which can then be used to guide activity choices. Students will be able to draw conclusions between health choices and performance goals.

Awarded \$800 (Requested \$1500)

Grant #61: LOOK...Communication in Action

Lead Teacher/Staff: Kathryn Wipperling

Summary: This grant will provide a digital camera with video capabilities allowing MHS special education students to capture communication in action and allow students to LOOK at how they communicate. Watching video capturing communication in action will help to facilitate more effective advocacy, peer interaction and social skills among the students. A camera will also allow prints to be made for classroom use, or information to be sent home to parents to reinforce skills.

Awarded \$200

Minnetonka Community Education/Early Childhood and Family Education

Grant #26: Out of the Box Science Kits

Lead Teacher/Staff: Mary Babcock/Karen Hoffner/Terri Root

Summary: This grant will support providing hands on science kits for preschool classrooms that will tie directly into the essential learning of Scientific Thinking and Problem Solving and establish a Science Center in each pre-school classroom. These kits provide a way to embed science and hands-on discovery in the early childhood program. The science kits tie directly into the 21st century skills of analysis, inductive and deductive reasoning and information development.

Awarded \$1000 (Requested \$2044)

Grant #56: Together We Create

Lead teacher/Staff: Terri Root

Summary: This project will build community among the diverse group of life-long learners who utilize the Minnetonka Community Education Center. An artist will collaborate with all building stake holders in creating and designing a building mural that is a celebration of 21st Century collaboration and a celebration of the diverse learning community at MCEC.

Awarded \$500 (Requested \$2000)

Number of Grants Funded = 56

Total Amount Funded = \$50,395

Includes: 6 grants funded by the MAA Fine Arts Endowment Fund for \$6,684

6 grants funded by the Nick Duff Multicultural Fund for \$3,852

2 grants funded through the Youth Citizenship Development Fund for \$800