

2009 Grant Award Recipients

(7 grants totaling \$9,676)

Ashland High School

Awarded To:	Joshua Wiczer and Stephen O'Leary
Title	Interactive Technology in Math
Summary:	The students in the Algebra I, Algebra II, Pre-calculus and other classes use Texas Instruments TI-83 graphing calculators to help understand the visual representations of equations, from linear to polynomial to trigonometric. This allows students to easily see the effects of changes in parameters. Unfortunately, many students do not or cannot purchase these calculators either due to cost or the perception that they will not be widely used. As a result, teachers might not use them enough, or students need to share, which limits the learning effectiveness. Having a supply of the same calculator that the teacher is using and projecting onto the whiteboard is an efficient and effective way to enhance student engagement and comprehension in class. Award: \$2,000 for 22 calculators.
Amount Awarded:	\$350

Awarded To:	Karen Bernier
Title	Smart Classroom
Summary:	Students today arrive to school with a much different mindset than students 20, 10, or even five years ago. Teaching has become more about building a tool chest from which students can pull to excel in a world that is more technology dependent. We cannot expect to help children navigate in a technological society without mirroring that in the classroom. Bringing a Smartboard to the classroom, a computerized interactive whiteboard, will revolutionize the way we interact with students, the way students interact with one another, the way we interact with technology and how we bridge communication between home and school. This Smart Classroom will bring the learning environment into the 21st century.
Amount Awarded:	\$2,000

Awarded To:	Patricia J. Kacevich
Title	Literacy Through the Lens of Books and Games
Summary:	The literacy class is a new program which began at Mindess in September of 2008 and serves about 650 students in grades 3-5. The focus of the class has been to expand and support classroom instruction by reinforcing reading strategies and fostering discussion of well-written children's literature. This grant will provide materials of two types, picture books and leveled games, to use for literacy classes. Students need exposure to good literature and practice in comprehension strategies in order to become life-long readers and perform well on standardized testing. The books and games will provide opportunities for collaborative learning, build on reading strategies presented during the 2008-2009 school year, and reinforce the power standards for each grade level.
Amount Awarded:	\$993

Awarded To:	Karen Taylor and Lauren Alves
Title	Outdoor Learning Space
Summary:	The Outdoor Learning Space will consist of a 16' x 16' ground level deck, covered by indoor/outdoor carpeting and a 20' x 20' durable canopy to provide shade. The area will lend itself to numerous seating configurations, depending on teacher preference, and will be conducive to physical education, art, reading/literature, math and science activities. Since there is neither shaded space outside nor air conditioning in our school (and most classrooms are unbearably hot and stuffy), teachers and students will benefit greatly from the ventilated, comfortable space in spring, early summer and fall. It will also protect students and teachers from harmful rays of the sun. This Outdoor Learning Space will benefit students and teachers at the Warren School for many years to come!
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Awarded To:	Naomi Martin
Title	Project Adventure/Outdoor Pursuits
Summary:	Currently, there is a need for an Adventure program in the Ashland Public School district, as well as a Peer Leadership program in the elementary and middle school grades. In our individualistic culture, people are encouraged to branch out from societal norms by following their own dreams and celebrating their personal strengths. Through several Project Adventure activities and principles, the goal of this program is to provide a safe and positive learning environment for our students, who will learn that every member of a team plays a vital role in the team's success. Outdoor Pursuits will not only encourage individuals to explore and show confidence in their own abilities, but also promote the acceptance of others' strengths and support students as they learn cooperation, collaboration and teamwork. Additionally, this program will teach our high school students how to be mentors so they can transfer their knowledge and skills to younger students in the district. The Physical Education and Wellness Department at Ashland High School will begin offering the Outdoor Pursuits class in the fall of 2009. Award: \$1,983 for professional development to prepare for the course, along with curriculum books and activity kits.
Amount Awarded:	\$1,983

David Mindess School

Awarded To:	David Bernard
Title	Units of Study for Teaching Writing 3 – 5
Summary:	In the past few years the English Language Arts MCAS scores at Mindess have been under scrutiny, particularly the long composition. The current program does not effectively teach writing or topic development that is so crucial to the MCAS long composition. The purchase of new materials includes six carefully constructed units that use a spiraling curriculum to teach narrative and expository writing. The benefits include advice and instruction in having effective writing workshops. This type of writing program has great potential to improve student writing and our MCAS long composition scores. Award: \$350 for two units of study, including 14 books and two CDs.
Amount Awarded:	\$350