

2011 Grant Award Recipients

(11 grants totaling \$15,098)

Ashland High School

Awarded To:	Scott Smith
Title	Gallery Space and Art Exhibition Panels
Summary:	This permanent museum quality gallery room and portable art panels will be housed and maintained at the Ashland High School to display student artwork. The gallery space will be used for small student/class exhibitions, as well as local community artists short-term exhibition space. The AEFI will fund this space and new art display panels for student art shows throughout the year. When not in use for school wide exhibition, the panels will be attached to the walls in the art hallway increasing our ability to display work that is created on a weekly basis, for short-term display, critiques and discussion.
Amount Awarded:	\$1,589

Awarded To:	Jessica McGuire and Aleisha Egan
Title	English Department Document Cameras
Summary:	Model essays are an integral part of the teaching process in the English classroom. To this end, educators make several copies for classes and attempt to use overhead projectors to show students the whole writing process from brain storming to writing, editing and correcting. While this is effective it is also wasteful. Each essay needs to be copied onto an overhead and special markers are required in order to write on the overheads. The AEFI is funding three iPevo document cameras, which will work well for both of these type lessons. This camera will enable the educator to easily project an essay or an example text. This way, educators will have more teachable moments!
Amount Awarded:	\$203

Awarded To:	Len Rabinowitz
Title	Integrating Smart Boards into High School Social Studies
Summary:	<p>The AEFI is pleased and proud to introduce the first interactive white board at Ashland High School. Research indicates that, with proper training, the smart board is most effective when used between 50% and 80% of the time in the classroom. Learning new technologies encourages innovation by teachers, and the interactivity encourages student involvement. The AEFI is funding an interactive white board, document camera, a combined printer/scanner/copier for classroom use, and a new computer. Many varied activities can be done using this technology once it is installed. For example, students or teachers could scan important documents into a presentation and use the smart board technology to highlight or zoom in on important parts of them. Many lessons will be brought to life by this technology. This will unquestionably be an innovative approach to learning and problem solving for both the educators and the student.</p>
Amount Awarded:	\$1,558

Ashland Middle School

Awarded To:	Dolores Frazer, Cathy Stickney, Mary Moynagh, and Claudia Bennett
Title	Interactive 21st Century Classroom
Summary:	Twenty-first century learning is not just the current buzz word in education, it is a pressing reality. Educational and industry leaders are calling for responsive action in today's K-12 classrooms to make the necessary paradigm shift from traditional educational practices to those that incorporate "new literacies," defined as learning to read and produce the kinds of texts typical of the emerging information and multimedia age. The AEFI grant will fund two In-touch projectors, eight Flip video cameras, 30 wireless mice and associated equipment. This project will help build the infrastructure needed to enable teachers to incorporate technology into the curriculum so that students at Ashland Middle School can be at the forefront of this educational movement, and we can begin to develop a school of the future.
Amount Awarded:	\$2,000

Awarded To:	Jennifer Caputo
Title	Improving Education of Special Needs Students with iPads
Summary:	This project involves the introduction of alternative technology to teach and reinforce reading, writing, math, science, social studies and languages arts skills to students with significant special needs. The students in this classroom are motivated and excited to learn, yet they face challenges in order to learn and be exposed to typical curriculum and opportunities every day that other students would never consider having to overcome. The AEFI is funding two iPads and two cases to help offer a variety of alternative and creative ways to teach and modify curriculum to these students.
Amount Awarded:	\$838

Awarded To:	Sharon Ames
Title	Portable Devices for Learning
Summary:	The Kindle can bridge the gap between home and school, making reading more exciting and interactive, as well as making text more accessible for our students. The AEFI is pleased to fund three Kindles and cases. By providing our students with this device, we can access titles that may be otherwise hard to find and download as e-books. Audio support addresses challenges of students with vision issues, language barriers, special needs students and ESL/ELL students. Other features of this device include the capability for teachers and students to load and read their own text, as well as notes and study guides. Overall, this device allows many students to access their curriculum and to be more engaged and actively involved in their lessons.
Amount Awarded:	\$627

Awarded To:	Lauren Laing
Title	Technology in the Science Classroom
Summary:	When our students graduate from high school and college, they will be entering a workforce that uses 21 st century technologies. Through the use of these technologies in the classroom, such as iPods/iPads with the ability to airprint (e-print) and document cameras, students will be exposed to technologies that will be prevalent in the future workforce. The AEFI is funding an iPad and case with Wifi 32GB, and accompanying connection to a TV and a document camera that can be connected to a microscope, and an all-in-one printer. The ultimate goal of the project is to enhance the students' learning in the classroom and show them how technologies that many use just for entertainment can actually be used effectively in educational ways.
Amount Awarded:	\$1,495

David Mindess School

Awarded To:	Thomas Bannon, Claudia Bennett, Martha Thompson, and Marilyn Matarese
Title	Mindess Science and Technology Symposium
Summary:	Last June, the first Mindess Science and Technology Symposium was a huge success. This involves the 600 students at Mindess, the entire staff, parents of Mindess students who are engaged in scientific fields, and scientific resources within the Ashland community. The AEFI will help fund equipment and materials, such as a multimedia video projector and multiple t-views for classroom set-up. Science and technology is an integral piece of the 21 st century. The symposium exposes young children to “real” science and helps them understand the impact of science in their daily lives.
Amount Awarded:	\$1,948

Awarded To:	Claudia Bennett
Title	Smile, You're a Start at Mindess
Summary:	Photography and videography have become important tools of learning in the 21 st century. In schools, we use pictures and video to engage our students and enhance their learning experience. The AEFI will fund 10 digital cameras, 10 memory cards, and a green screen photography kit. Students will photograph things about which they are learning. They will be reporters and recorders for and of each other when giving presentations. They will also have the opportunity to view themselves as presenters and reflect on themselves in that role. The camera as a learning tool will also be able to transcend learning styles and language barriers. Photography will be a microscope through which a student can deepen their learning experience.
Amount Awarded:	\$1,450

Awarded To:	Claudia Bennett
Title	Wifi, a Portal to Learning
Summary:	Technology is our portal to learning in the 21 st century. Information technology is transforming the lives of our students and educators as student learners and teacher learners. Unfortunately, all too often students and staff are separated from the technology they use in their daily lives when they enter the doors of our educational institutions. As we strive to prepare our students to live well in the 21 st century it becomes increasingly evident that we must provide them with the laboratory in which they can safely explore, experiment and practice the skills that will help them live well and effectively. Providing WiFi access within the walls of Mindess allows us to make the most of employee-owned technology to increase and improve student learning. Providing Wifi access is a critical component to creating a 21 st century learning community fully able to access, participate in and benefit from the vast resources of the Internet and a world of unconstrained learning. The AEFI will fund two wireless access points at the Mindess School.
Amount Awarded:	\$1,695

Henry E. Warren School

Awarded To:	Barbara Ball
Title	Wireless at Warren
Summary:	<p>The Warren School is currently dependent on hard wiring to access the Internet and this access is limited to our computer lab or desktops in the classroom/offices. The AEFI will fund two wireless access points. The addition of WiFi functionality will allow classroom teachers and the administration to introduce web-based instruction. Wireless at Warren will afford computer access and educational opportunities with greater flexibility to all members of the Warren School community. To ensure that everyone at the Warren School has access to this functionality, Wireless at Warren will enable teachers to reserve the library to offer whole group, small group or one-on-one academic instruction through webinars, podcasts and educational websites. Additionally, access to Apple Applications and educational websites will be available through iPod Touches and iPads as part of this initiative. The administration will also benefit from the this access and the accompanying web-based resources during staff and curriculum meetings.</p>
Amount Awarded:	\$1,695