

## 2006-2007 Grant Program Award Descriptions

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### Center School

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**Proposal Title:** Early Exploration of Science  
**Primary Applicant:** Karen McCaw  
**Grade(s):** Kindergarten  
**Amount:** \$6,500

**Description:** This grant will provide hands-on science units that encourage our youngest students to investigate, experiment, and problem solve. Areas of study, which will follow the state frameworks, will include seeds and plants, insects and butterflies, magnets and five senses. All kindergarten students will have the opportunity to explore and develop a love for science by using these materials.

**Measurement:** The effectiveness of the science units will be evaluated through teacher observation, various assessments, and student work samples.

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### Elmwood School

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**Proposal Title:** Fired Up about Art  
**Primary Applicant:** Bonnie Muir  
**Grade(s):** 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade  
**Amount:** \$3,463

**Description:** Funds from this grant will be used to create a complete clay center and teach second and third-grade students about creating ceramic objects – one of the oldest known crafts in civilization. The project addresses the standards in the Massachusetts Arts Curriculum Framework and will help students to develop and sustain the natural curiosity, expressiveness and creativity that very young children often display. The grant will pay for a kiln and clay to create hand-made sculptures.

**Measurement:** Students will be evaluated through discussion and challenged to look and make comparisons. Critiques will be held to help students see their sculptures in a new light, and students will be asked a series of questions to illicit answers.

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## Elmwood School

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**Proposal Title:** Math-On-The-Go  
**Applicant(s):** Gail Welsh  
**Grade(s):** 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade  
**Amount:** \$2,500

**Description:** This grant was initiated by the Elmwood School Council to improve basic math skills through the creation of “Math-On-The-Go” toolkits. The Math-On-The-Go Toolkits will provide math tutors with a standardized teaching tool to assist students in math. These kits will maximize the 40-minute tutor sessions and produce more effective tutoring sessions. Parents would be required to purchase the toolkits and those funds would be used to create new toolkits.

**Measurement:** Parents/tutors and students will fill out evaluations on the effectiveness of the kits. These evaluations will be used to tweak additional versions of the Math-On-The-Go kits.

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**Proposal Title:** Science Finally for 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade  
**Primary Applicant:** Fran Hruska  
**Grade(s):** 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade  
**Amount:** \$5,200

**Description:** This grant promises to improve science education at the elementary level and create a more hands on learning environment. The grant will be used to create “Science Units” including, insects; sink and float; sound; outer space; moon, rocks and minerals; simple machines, and plant growth. To foster independent research, non-fiction books will be purchased for each topic. The kits and books will be housed in a centrally located room with access to all teachers on a sign-out basis. This grant program will help to bolster MCAS science scores.

**Measurement:** Students will be tested on a regular basis to demonstrate their knowledge of the science subjects. Teachers will provide informal assessments and encourage students to participate in the science fair. Coordinators will monitor the frequency of usage by the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> grade classrooms and monitor student’s MCAS science scores.

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## Middle School

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**Proposal Title:** Middle School Video Program  
**Primary Applicant:** Kristen Dykstra  
**Grade(s):** 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade  
**Amount:** \$4,500

**Description:** This grant will enable the creation of a video club at the Middle School and provide students with an opportunity to visually document a variety of events that occur throughout the year. The videos will then be shared with the student body, staff, parents and the overall Hopkinton community – strengthening the home-school-community relationship. In addition, students and faculty members will improve their overall technology skills and better utilize existing equipment.

**Measurement:** The video club’s effectiveness will be measured through student participation, teacher requests for video assistance in the classroom and the number of completed video projects. Students will also be asked to reflect on the project and these self-reflections will be kept by the club advisor.

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## Middle School

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**Proposal Title:** Grade 6 United: Interactive Whiteboards Leads to Interactive Students  
**Primary Applicant:** Sarah Daigneault  
**Grade(s):** 6<sup>th</sup> Grade  
**Amount:** \$22,040

**Description:** This grant will enable the entire 6<sup>th</sup> grade to utilize interactive whiteboard technology with the additional purchase of two interactive whiteboard technology (Mimios). Building on the success of last year's program, teachers will continue to differentiate their instruction through an innovative, multimedia approach. The manner in which teachers present their content material may be quickly adjusted to meet students' learning needs. Whether used for whole class or small group instruction, the Mimio encourages more student interaction and engagement. The Mimios enable students to see and interact with projected images, which include maps, PowerPoint presentations, shared data tables, diagrams, and graphs. The technology enables teachers to answer student questions spontaneously.

**Measurement:** Each teacher on the team will keep a log of when, why and how he/she uses the Mimio in his/her classroom. In addition, teachers will log student involvement and responses and their own reflections on how the tool worked for their activities. Teachers will also save notes from the note-taking lesson and collect student work, as well as provide periodic student surveys.

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**Proposal Title:** Scanner to Support Mimios  
**Primary Applicant:** Sandy Stymiest  
**Grade(s):** 6<sup>th</sup> Grade  
**Amount:** \$1,000

**Description:** This grant will enable teachers to fully capitalize on the Mimio technology. In order to utilize visuals that impact student learning, most of them need to be scanned into an image format. Direct access to up-to-date scanners enhances the application of the technology. As a whole, the Mimio improves the interactive sixth grade curriculum and the scanners will help to further expand its visual capabilities.

**Measurement:** The scanners value will be accessed by ease-of-use, user frequency, time savings due to shared visual images and student-generated ideas on the use of technology to enhance overall content understanding.

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## Hopkinton School District

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**Proposal Title:** Creating a Virtual Library  
**Primary Applicant:** Cris Bright  
**Grade(s):** K-12<sup>th</sup> Grade  
**Amount:** \$23,840

**Definition:** This grant will fund the purchase and implementation of Sagebrush InfoCenter and PinPoint technologies and will establish a virtual library for the Hopkinton School Community. The project will place all library catalogs online, providing students and staff with access to district-wide library resources. These resources will include e-books, databases, selected Web sites, as well as traditional print materials and will be centralized through a single portal. By purchasing this technology, this will enable students to conduct research from home more effectively and efficiently.

**Measurement:** The measure of success for this project will be increased circulation between schools, increased use of online subscription databases and increased usage of quality, research resources.