



## 2008-2009 Grant Program Award Descriptions

### **Orff Instrumentarium**

**Center School**

**Funding: \$6,598.85**

This grant funds instruments and equipment needed to implement the Orff-Schuwerk method of music education which is known for mixing performance with chants, rhymes, songs, games, dances, and movement. This hands-on approach to music education will benefit all Center School students and allow all students in a classroom to create music simultaneously.

### **Kindergarten Literature for All**

**Center School**

**Funding: \$2300**

This grant will provide literature for each Kindergarten classroom to support thematic connections between science, social studies, and language arts. It will enhance the science and social studies curriculum by extending the units and providing opportunities to explore the subject matter in more depth. A resource guide for teacher reference will also be developed and shared.

### **Hearing is Believing**

**Elmwood School**

**Funding: \$4650**

This grant provides six amplification systems to be shared among Elmwood teachers to improve the effectiveness of communication and increase learning opportunities in the classroom. By enhancing the sound quality of instruction, both concentration and learning are expected to increase. Those with typical hearing, as well as those with hearing or second language challenges, will benefit by increased ability to focus on instructional content with minimal background distraction.

### **Author's Pride**

**Elmwood School**

**Funding: \$9643.50**

This grant supports the purchase of 50 Co-Writer and Write Outloud software programs that will be available in each classroom, throughout the computer lab, and for use at home. This software provides a word prediction program with a text-to-speech word processing program to support students in enjoying the creative aspects of writing while minimizing the struggle with writing mechanics. Writing production, use of more complex vocabulary, and creativity is anticipated to increase. This tool is expected to help all students to write more independently.

### **Hopkins Students Get "SMARTer"** ***EMC Grant for Math and Science***

**Hopkins School**

**Funding: \$4,296**

This grant funds a pilot study using interactive whiteboard technology (Smart Board) to enhance and support learning in the areas of math and science. Students and teachers will have an opportunity to engage in hands-on activities that model independent investigation and provide the opportunity for small group cooperative learning as well as whole class discussion. Two teachers will take part in off-site curriculum training and serve as lead trainers for their peers. This technology tool is expected to actively engage students in the learning process and support visual, kinesthetic, and tactile learners.

### **Empowering Student Writers**

**Middle School**

**Funding: \$8000**

This grant funds year one of a pilot that employs an innovative portfolio-based writing instruction program to facilitate frequent feedback and empower students to improve their writing skills at their own pace. It is expected to improve student writing skills, increase motivation for writing and deepen the understanding of the writing process. Teachers will be better able to differentiate instruction through immediate results of formative assessments and access to electronic writing portfolios.

**Transforming Libraries**

**District Wide**

**with Digital Audio Media and Assistive Technologies**

**Funding: \$9633.50**

This grant provides funding for digital audio media and assistive technologies throughout the school district. The initiative will allow teachers to expand their educational repertoires by delivering curriculum via multiple modalities including digital audio books, oral note taking, and podcast development. It will increase access to library and curricular materials in more varied formats and foster a multimedia approach to research. The technologies will be integrated into the classroom and will provide assistance in reading within the content areas, support English language learners, and aid those practicing foreign language conversations.