

# Harrison Educational Foundation

## Grants Awarded in 2009/2010

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### All Elementary Schools

#### **1) Beginning Reading at Home - (2009/10 School Year)**

Mary Ellis, Supervisor of Elementary English / Social Studies, has requested funding for Kindergarten Book Bags. These bags are given to all incoming kindergartners at orientation each spring with a letter stressing the importance of reading to young children. This program helps establish a supportive relationship between home and school. Each bag contains several books, a handbook for parents and information about the Foundation.

### Purchase Elementary School

#### **2) RealeWriter Program - (2009/10 School Year)**

Deborah Goldstein, Library/Media Specialist at Purchase School has requested funding for student authored book publishing and sharing software. This grant would be used to help children create their own books in a template form. A site license allows for the entire building to create full-sized books. Web site hosting allows all students in the building to access books written by their classmates. This represents a great primary reading source for students to learn to read from their peers' writing. The application would be available for all grades K-5.

#### **3) Literacy Centers - (2009/10 School Year)**

This request is being made by Dana Pojednic, Christina Boniello and Viola Johnson, all first grade teachers at the Purchase School. The grant would be used to purchase materials to supplement the grade's existing literacy centers. The materials would focus on mathematics and language arts and would include 16 different units consisting of books, games and activities. This grant will update the existing materials so that children can continue to build knowledge and participate in "hands-on" learning experiences. All 65 first grade students would be participating and affected by the program.

### LMK Middle School

#### **4) Spotlight Night/Science Fair - (2009/10 School Year)**

Stacie Kloepfer-Brooks and Brian Seligman at LMK are making this request on behalf of the school. Spotlight Night is a school-wide Arts and Science Festival. This night is a "show and tell" for various art, writing, science and just about any other type of student projects. Many members of the community attend this event from grandparents on down to younger siblings of current students.

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### 5) Literary Magazine/Writing Competition – (2009/10 School Year)

This request is being made by several of the English teachers at LMK. The grant supports a recognition ceremony similar to the one funded at HHS for their writing journal. The program has two parts: The LMK Literary Magazine is open to all students, with writing pieces submitted by teachers and/or editors for approval. The magazine provides a stimulus to encourage students to creatively express themselves through writing or drawing. The National Council of Teachers of English annual literacy magazine competition has ranked the "Literature Molded By Kids" magazine at LMK as Excellent among national middle school magazines. Printing is funded by the district. For the writing competition students submit writing samples to be evaluated and included in a journal. Awards are issued in multiple categories.

### 6) SmartMusic Program - (2009/10 School Year)

Karen Froehlich has requested funding for interactive software for music instruction and practice. SmartMusic provides a means to individualize instruction and document the results of every student. Students play their part with accompaniment and receive detailed feedback on their performance. The grant will provide a one-year subscription to the SmartMusic website and software and computer microphones for approximately 100 seventh and eighth grade band students.

## Harrison High School

### 7) Writers Among Us - (2009/10 School Year)

David Luhman, Supervisor of Secondary English Language Arts is making this request on behalf of the High School English Department. Grade level teachers will be responsible for selecting writing pieces during the school year. Upon selection, each student is recognized in various ways, culminating with a recognition ceremony for writers, parents and teachers. Last year the National Council of Teachers of English annual literacy magazine competition ranked the Harrison High School's "Imagine" as Excellent among national high school literary magazines. The grant covers a reception, gifts (autographed copies of author's book) and a keynote speaker (for 2009 the guest speaker was Esmeralda Santiago, noted author, whose work is currently incorporated into the 9<sup>th</sup> grade English curriculum).

### 8) Law Day - (2009/10 School Year)

Veronica Sullivan, a teacher in the Social Studies department and chair of Law Day is requesting funding for Law Day to be held in April 2010. Harrison High School will host this mock trial as part of a national celebration of Law Day. HHS will be inviting approximately seven schools from the area to participate, and 20 community leaders and citizens will serve as judges. Students compete in a mock trial and have the opportunity to experience law first hand. The program is intended to bolster the understanding and appreciation of law, encourage civic involvement and foster a sense of community. Students develop critical thinking skills and have the opportunity to explore career options and interact with adults from the community affiliated with the practice of law. The cost includes breakfast, lunch, awards and printing costs associated with event publicity.

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### **9) Apple Language Lab - (2009/10 School Year)**

Brendan Gallivan, Director of LOTE/ESL is making this request for 10 Apple Macbook computers and Peripheral Devices (Video iPods and Digital Video Cameras) to be used in an Apple Language Lab for the AP LOTE (Foreign Language) Program at Harrison High School. The Apple Language Lab is expected to increase student engagement, promote language acquisition and provide a means of authentic student assessment. Applications include audio travel albums to learn about cultures, strengthening reading fluency and comprehension with Garage Band, use of Keynote to design visual and audio presentations (strengthens vocabulary). The reach begins with 10th-12th grade language students, including all AP classes (approximately 300 students). Additional applications include music, art and ESL.

### **10) Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival: Shakespeare Students on Stage - (2009/10 School Year)**

David Luhman, Supervisor of Secondary English Language Arts has requested funding for a 10<sup>th</sup> grade program for students to have the experience of working with Shakespearean performers in a workshop based on materials they are reading in class. The workshops get students involved with the text, and they create an interest in understanding the full play. The students receive dynamic strategies to engage them in learning and in unpacking the difficult language of Shakespeare; they work directly with actors to create meaning through performance, not just reading or listening to text. The cost covers 10 sessions over the course of two days.

### **11) Black Box Planetarium Theater - (2009/10 School Year)**

This grant will help fund a complete renovation of the high school planetarium and its conversion into multi-use science and arts space. The planetarium was originally funded by a National Science Foundation grant and opened in 1974. Through this grant, the planetarium will receive state-of-the-art digital and optical equipment that provides for greater flexibility and a broader range of uses related to the sciences. The planetarium projection system and its flexible programming capability will permit and provide for a more robust science-based application for courses in astronomy, meteorology and marine science. Students will be able to engage in computer modeling around weather patterns, ocean currents, and in prospective and retrospective research around these themes. The equipment also provides for students to write their own programs based on their modeling and/or research.

The new mobile planetarium system will also allow for multipurpose space that can service the sciences more broadly and support the development of a film program, serve as a sound and production studio, a Black Box theater for small theater productions, a dance studio, and a multipurpose teaching space. The redesign will also include an exterior entrance which will create an opportunity for small theater productions, student run planetarium events, and small group presentations. The district will be able to utilize what is now a unique but limited resource, and expand it to more broadly serve the student population.