

2006 GRANTS

The following grants were awarded in 2006 for the 2006-2007 school year.

Program: Compassion Through Canines

School/Department: Lowell Elementary

Students Impacted: Any K-6 student with “at risk” behaviors or anger management issues.

Program Description: Animal-Assisted Therapy (AAT) uses specially trained and tested, certified Therapy Dogs and specially trained volunteers as an integral part of a therapeutic process aimed at reaching difficult to manage children either at-risk or with behavioral problems. The goal of the program is to teach patience, compassion and nurturing behaviors. Also to improve behavior control and cooperation in school with a focus on better impulse control, fewer outbursts, agitated and aggressive behaviors and lower arousal levels, plus an improved sense of responsibility. Special activities and curriculum will be developed by a team consisting of an AAT specialist, the school counselor and the school social worker with input from classroom teachers and other involved staff. The student activities will involve learning about, caring for, playing with and “training” the dog. These activities and lessons encourage and teach important social skills and character development including cooperation, individual and group problem solving, boundary setting, clearer expression of thoughts, feelings and ideas, anger management, dealing with issues of prejudice and trust, and developing nurturing and compassionate behaviors.

Program: Independent Research Exploration

School/Department: Hillcrest Elementary

Students Impacted: Approximately 315 students in Grades 1-6

Program Description: Provide students the opportunity to develop non-fiction research and writing skills through an independent research project on a Science, Social Studies or Mathematics topic of their choice. Provide age-appropriate, non-fiction reference materials to support the research and to enable creativity, independence and critical thinking. Showcase the finished projects at a “Learning Celebration” open to parents and community members. At the Learning Celebration, the students will have the opportunity to teach others what they have learned.

Program: US History Class Project: USO Show

School/Department: West High School

Students Impacted: Up to 600 students in 9th and 11th grade

Program Description: Class project that will be undertaken in conjunction with the WWII unit in US History (3rd quarter '07). Students will participate in an authentic USO Show in one of the following ways: writer, performer, director, researcher, “soldiers” in the audience, promoter, user and general organizer. The program will be presented free to the public in an evening performance. The goals are to have students understand the United Service Organization, how it operates and its purpose and to give students an opportunity to utilize their individual skills and participate in an authentic performance for a real audience. Students will also promote positive community relations through outreach to parents, veterans and neighbors. Students will also turn in a USO related project which will include a reflection on their USO experience.

Program: Tribes

School/Department: Blair Elementary

Students Impacted: 300 K-6 students

Program Description: The Blair staff has been studying best practices in classroom management throughout the 2005-2006 school year based on an identified need for not only a select targeted group of students, but also for the school-wide population. Blair has experienced disruptive behaviors that negatively impact teaching and learning, as well as an increased level of disrespect. Out of this analysis,

Blair staff is proposing to implement the Tribes program. Tribes engages teachers, administrators, students and families in working together as a learning community that is dedicated to caring and support, active participation and positive expectations for all students. Ultimately, the goal is to strengthen classroom and school community, reduce disrespect and disruptive behaviors and increase academic achievement.

Program: Middle School Listening Lab

School/Department: Horning Middle School

Students Impacted: 150-175 students/year

Program Description: Learning music through listening to the performances of the masters is a learning strategy that happens in every culture of the world. High-caliber professional recordings help students develop aesthetic and critical thinking skills as they evaluate what makes certain works expressive and emotionally evocative. In acquiring further listening experience and expertise, students listen critically to their own repertory and become more sensitized to subtleties of nuance and expression. Students will have the opportunity, through the creation of a listening lab and library, to hear professional musicians performing on their respective instruments. This will provide modeling of a number of aspects that are necessary for a quality performance including musical expression, tone production, articulation and pulse.

Program: Math-in-the-Bag Home Program

School/Department: Bethesda Elementary

Students Impacted: 150 K-1 students

Program Description: The main goal of the program is to increase positive attitudes toward the subject of mathematics and to increase student confidence in problem solving. Also, parents will gain a stronger understanding of the new path problem skills and what is often required of their child. Every other week a child will take a math bag home that includes a fiction story based on a specific math concept (finding area, multiplication, etc.) as well as corresponding manipulatives. Each book has designed activities to accompany it. The child and family will be required to complete a journal response about their experience with the book, explaining their math thinking.

Program: Freshman SOAR Program

School/Department: North High School

Students Impacted: 150+ incoming freshmen

Program Description: An integral part of high school achievement is the transition from middle school to high school. The goal of the Freshman SOAR program is increase the number of students that feel connected to the school, help build school spirit, and encourage involvement in activities. The orientation program is focused and centered on four core leadership competencies – teamwork, vision, professionalism and effective communication. The full day program takes a train-the-trainer approach using upperclassmen as mentors and includes a series of team building activities and an outdoor ropes course. The long term goal is to better connect freshmen, resulting in better grades, better attendance and a decrease in the need for office referrals or other discipline.

Program: Understanding and Experiencing Multicultural and World Music Through Performance in Band

School/Department: Central Middle School

Students Impacted: 150 – 300 7th and 8th grade students

Program Description: The population of Waukesha's Central Middle School is quite diverse, with a significant minority population. The majority population may not understand the culture, heritage and customs of minority groups. Music is a wonderful avenue to culture and can be competency based. The basic mission of the proposal is to use the study and performance of the many varied types of multicultural and world music to promote cultural awareness, global understanding and world music sensitivity. The proposal will provide experiences for artistic growth and cultural awareness through the acquisition of

specific knowledge, skills, and attitudes that will contribute to a more harmonious society and a better lifelong enjoyment of music.

Program: ELL Environmental Excursion

School/Department: Waukesha South High School

Students Impacted: 40 Bilingual/ELL (English Language Learners) Students

Program Description: The goal of the program is to provide Bilingual/ELL students who are participating in a required biology class the opportunity to experience the Schlitz Audubon Center for a special Ecology & Lake Michigan program with an additional stop at Retzer Nature Center. Many of these students come from other parts of the world and by and large, they are not comfortable or familiar with the local environment. This trip will give them exposure to the natural areas that will enhance their understanding of ecological concepts and introduce them to the natural world which they can share with their predominately immigrant families.

Program: Chords of Memory: The Immigrant Stories of Waukesha

School/Department: Waukesha South High School

Program Description: As a part of the 9th and 11th grade US History classes, this project is envisioned as the first in a series of student produced community histories. Because immigration was and is a significant theme in the American story, students will conduct oral interviews with their families, recent immigrants and long established residents. They will research population patterns and ethnic changes using resources at the Waukesha County Historical Society, the Wisconsin State Historical Society, and the US Census Bureau to document growth and change in our community. The resulting book will be a groundbreaking effort that celebrates the diverse past of our city. The students will learn to conduct oral historical interviews, discover “treasures in the attic” (both family and community artifacts), research historical documents and photographs, analyze population data, explore and articulate the life of their community and produce original art. The immigration theme will enrich and reinforce the American History 9th and 11th Grade curriculum.

Program: Read 180

School/Department: Prairie Elementary

Students Impacted: 30 students grades 4-6

Program Description: Read 180 is a technology based reading intervention program that combines the building blocks of breaking the cycle of failure, acceleration of instruction and success breeding success in supporting intensive reading instruction. This proposal updates existing technology with drastically improved teacher support materials for use during whole group and small group instruction rotation. It also provides new and improved software with additional teacher management tools.