

Fall 2010 Grant Awards

Learning, One Click At A Time (\$1,334)

Kimberly Kasal (Eagle)

This program is run on a computer through Power Point and is projected on a white board. Students record their answers on a given signal using a response device, much like a television remote control to answer questions. Individuals are able to share their answers without others knowing what their specific answer is.

Posture to Foster the Mind and Body (\$2,099)

Kathy Drake and Kassie Koselke (PVE)

The use of WittFitt stability balls will allow students constant motion without causing a disturbance to their learning. It will enhance students' attention and concentration, improve learning through movement, and improve blood flow to the body, especially the brain.

Guiding Our Readers (\$2,507.48)

Kathy Crone, Shannon Hall, Donna Frecker (PVE)

This grant will provide 540 books to the kindergarten and first graders through a guided reading program. This will allow small group instruction to meet a broader range of student needs.

Increasing Independence! (\$1,008.52)

Jill McCune (PVE)

The goal of this grant is to foster independence in special needs students by allowing them to complete skill-specific tub tasks independently in a structured environment, and also to use specialized software. The tub tasks are created by a special website to be task specific, so that students can start using these specialized tasks. The four software programs will be used to students who cannot speak and have very limited fine/gross motor skills.

A Treasure Chest of Books: Using Mentors to Learn to Write (\$315.69)

Kathy Roy (Union)

This project is intended to model, instruct, challenge, motivate and coach all Union students in the art of writing. Teachers will read the mentor text to the class and follow up with a series of writing lessons where students examine and practice the techniques the published author has used (i.e. similes, metaphors, homophones and synonyms, personification, repeated words, repetition of specific phrases, use of proper names and sound effects).

iCan with an iPod (\$1,036)

Laura Miller (ZMS)

This project is for students with disabilities to use an iPod to become more acclimated to the use of technology, explore how technology can enhance their learning, and develop their ability to be independent in society. They will learn from academic applications, investigate applications made specifically for people with Autism, listen to songs and books, sort using pictures, email, take and upload pictures, improve their social skills through social stories, and increase the communication of students who are non-verbal with programs that are available for downloads.

The Nature Of Things (\$1,464.82)

Beth Knapik and Cathy Daugherty (PVE)

Monies from this grant will fund a min-indoor and outdoor nature lab that will be observed and studied by the students. They will use magnifying glasses to watch and record information about hermit crabs or fish living in an aquarium in the classroom. Plants will be studied in the fall and spring. Using binoculars, they will observe birds, squirrels and other wildlife feeding at the bird feeders outside of classroom windows. Digital cameras and voice recording devices will be used to record animal sightings. The information gathered during the year will be displayed in the form of posters, books, graphs, charts and information cards created by the students.

Video Game Design (\$3,327.25)

Gil Speer (ZCHS)

The purpose of this grant is to purchase a software/textbook package to help bring concepts of digital learning and introduction to gaming technology as a career to students.

Advanced Studies in Electrical/Mechanical Engineering and Computer Science through the Design and Construction of a Self-Balancing Scooter (i.e. Segway) (\$2,868.50)

Matt Mulholland (ZCHS)

The goal of this project is to demonstrate the application of fundamental physics, computer science, and robotics principles in today's complex commercial electrical products. Students will be able to do hands-on programming and experimentation with the scooter.

iLearn from iPod (\$916)

Jennifer Davis (ZCHS)

This grant would allow special needs students to use iPods to become better acclimated with the use of technology for songs, books, sorting and using pictures, email and blogging, digital storytelling, and to improve students' social skills.

"Wii" Can Make A Difference (\$649.90)

Kassie Koselke (PVE)

The Wii will be used in connection with the third grade classroom curriculum and content. The subject areas that will have activities connected to the Wii are science, writing, reading, math, health/fitness, and social studies.

Multimedia Makeover (\$1,944.81)

Beth Brent (Eagle)

This makeover would provide students with the tools to create and edit videos and audio files. Students will be able to create videos and podcasts to demonstrate their thinking and understanding of core concepts.

ZCS Robotics Program Expansion (\$5,739.56)

Jed Wandland and Micah Faulkner (ZCHS)

This grant would provide additional competition fields needed for the expanding robotics program. This would enable the school to host competitions. Additionally, they have discontinued the use of hardware for the existing controllers that have been used. This grant would also allow the purchase of new cortex microcontrollers.

A Weighty Matter (\$2,120.40)

Elena Ciejek-Baez (Union and Eagle)

A new set of scales is needed that is sensitive enough to read weights less than one gram. They will be used to confirm the definition of matter and to investigate a variety of objects to see how the weight of similar objects varies.

Bringing Professional Bucket Fillers to Stonegate (\$1,500)

Lisa Cox, Kris Landis, Emily Duhn (Stonegate)

The school has a friendship week using the idea of "bucket filling" set forth in the book Have You Filled A Bucket Today. Students are taught the ideas of being "bucket filler" not "bucket dipper" i.e. choosing to make nice statements to people instead of giving put downs or negative comments). This grant will bring presenters in for a convocation to help further support this message in a fun and creative manner.

Necessary Nonfiction Fridays (\$1,180.96)

Kyla McDaniel (Stonegate)

A larger collection of nonfiction books is sought to expose students to a variety of high interest nonfiction text to increase fluency and comprehension. Having new materials will allow teaching to meet the needs of all students while focusing on vocabulary, text features, and nonfiction structure.