

Harrison Educational Foundation

Grants Awarded in 2006

Purchase Elementary School

1) Student Literacy Kits - (2006/07 School Year)

Janice Varmon on behalf of all kindergarten teachers is requesting funding for literacy kits. These are individual student magnetic letter kits with dry erase boards. These kits allow students to use tactile, visual and auditory modalities to learn and develop word building skills. These materials allow teachers to differentiate instruction across multiple levels and support the spelling and phonics programs currently in place.

Samuel J. Preston School

2) Read Naturally Listening Centers - (2006/07 School Year)

Dianne Rigano on behalf of the second grade teachers is requesting funding to include independent student listening centers in each of the 2nd grade classrooms at the Preston Elementary. Students would use the "Read Naturally" stories on paper to read along with the cassettes. Read Naturally is a fluency intervention and/or supplemental program based on current scientific research on reading fluency. The program includes a system for monitoring student progress. The cost includes mostly cassette tapes and players and we funded a similar program last year at both Harrison Avenue and Purchase School.

3) Samuel J Preston – Tile Installation Project - (2005/06 School Year)

This request is being made by Kimberly Kilcoyne for a Tile Installation Project to be completed early January. She is requesting funding for half of the total cost of the project. The funds will be used to bring a ceramic artist, Cliff Mendelson, to the school for three days of instruction and tile making.

- Day 1 Students will be studying ceramic art works of Japan, Egypt, Italy, Brazil and Mexico. Day one is primarily for learning about the history of ceramics.
- Day 2 Students start "slip-molds" for making the tiles
- Day 3 Students will be glazing/slip glazing their tiles.

This week long program introduces the children to the culture, geography, athletics and art history of 5 countries (Egypt, Mexico, Italy, Brazil and Japan).

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All Elementary Schools

4) Purchase College – Arts in Education - (2005/06 year)

This request is being made by Robert Torp for the 2005/06 school year. This program is a collaboration between the school district and SUNY Purchase that incorporates arts into the school day. The program includes attending performances at SUNY with lesson plans sent to the teachers in advance to enhance the experience. Students will generally read the book, see the show and then discuss their thoughts on both. Performances attended this year included “Frog and his Friends”, “Bunnicula”, “A Midsummer Night’s Dream”, “Lewis and Clark” and many others.

Last year about 1700 students attended performances during the year. About 75% of the grant will fund the tickets and the rest will fund the transportation.

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6) Beginning Reading at Home - (2005/06 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 year with a letter stressing the importance of reading to young children. This program helps establish a supportive relationship between home and school.

7) Ruby Bridges – All Elementary Schools and LMK - (2006/07 School Year)

Doreen Cipolla, a 3rd grade teacher at Purchase is requesting funding to have Ruby Bridges, the first American Child to desegregate an elementary school. She is an icon of the Civil Rights movement and has a story to tell about her place in American history. She is a strong believer in literacy and the power of education and will emphasize the importance of reading. The costs include her speaking fee, hotel and airfare for her visit. She would present a total of 6 times, one in each elementary and 2x at LMK because of the large number of students and applicability.

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LMK Middle School Grant Requests

8) Spotlight Night/Science Fair - (2005/06 School Year)

Tracy Viola at LMK is 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 existing students.

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10) Literary Magazine/Writing Competition - (2005/06 School Year)

This request is being made by Dr. Brooke and several of the English Teachers at LMK. The Foundation has funded this program for the last 3 years. While most of the costs relate to printing, we found this an excellent venue for students to compete on an academic level.

The program has two parts:

1. LMK Literary Magazine, "Literature Molded by Kids", is open to all students. Writing pieces are submitted to the English teachers and/or editors of the magazine for approval. This magazine provides a stimulus to encourage children to creatively express themselves in an artistic manner whether through writing or drawing. Knowing their hard work will be rewarded through the publishing process, children generally invest significant amounts of time in the creation and revision process. This is a great way for children to learn the effective usage of writing/drawing skills. Last year The National Council Teachers of English annual literary magazine competition ranked the Literature Molded by Kids magazine as superior among national middle school literary magazines.
2. Writing Competition – students submit writing samples to be evaluated and included in a journal. Awards are issued in several categories.

While much of the cost reflects printing of the Literary Magazine, this magazine is showcased and referred to during the following school year in all of the English classrooms.

11) Enhancing Visual Literacy – (2006/07 School Year)

Trudy Duschaneck, a library/media specialist is requesting funding for 6 digital cameras' to be used by students to show an understanding of literature big ideas by creating "film trailers" or documentary-type media to enhance visual literacy and engage in script writing and film production. This idea was presented at the New York State English Council Conference in Albany by a group from SUNY Binghamton that works with city middle schools. This program will be piloted by Ms. Dionisio in sixth grade LA I classes. These cameras will aid in the implementation of information literacy standards.

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Harrison High School

12) Writers Among Us - (2005/06 School Year)

Marie Perrotta is making this request on behalf of the high school English Department. This was formerly known as Writer of the Month Program but has been expanded to be more inclusive. Grade level teachers will be responsible for selecting writing pieces during the school year. Upon selection, each student is recognized in various ways cumulating with a recognition breakfast held in May for the writers, parents, BOE and the Superintendent. Last year The National Council Teachers of English annual literary magazine competition ranked Harrison High School's magazine, Imagine, as excellent among national high school literary magazines.

The cost of the program covers food, gifts (writing journals) and a keynote student-writing workshop.

13) Writers Among Us - (2006/07 School Year)

See above for Description.

14) Law Day - (2005/06 School Year)

Tiffany Theodous, a teacher of Law Studies is requesting funding for Law Day to be held in May 2006. Harrison High School will host a mock trial as part of a national celebration of Law. They are inviting approximately 6 high 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 the 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. The costs of this program include a breakfast, lunch, awards for the participants and printing publicity.

15) Practical Self Defense / Cardiovascular Conditioning - (2006/07 School Year) / Pending

Wendy Rosen, physical education teacher would like to add this exciting program to be available next year to all girls in all grades. She will be hiring a woman who teaches this program in the Yonkers School District and at some local YMCAs'. The program will incorporate specific techniques (hand, knee, elbow, foot, punches and kicks) along with an intense cardio workout. The cost of the program covers a total of 64 classes. Each student will receive a total of 8 classes.

16) Endangered Species and our Role - (2006/07 School Year)

Debra Davis, an environmental science teacher is requesting funding for an in-house program for science students given by the Wolf Conservation Center in South Salem, NY. The WCS will provide a trained environmentalist and naturalist who will conduct a program on the endangered wolf species, Canis Lupis. As part of the program they will bring a live wolf to the school so that students can truly connect with nature. Roughly 60 kids taking AP Environmental Science and others will be included in this program.

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All Schools in District

17) Family University - (2005/06 School Year)

Family University is an evening of workshops for K-12 parents and students dealing with many issues affecting families. The concept is to educate parents and students while bringing the community closer, raising awareness and stimulate discussions on important issues. This was the inaugural year for the program. Cost of program covers speaker's fees, printing and refreshments.

18) Family University - (2006/07 School Year)

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