

Harrison Educational Foundation

Sample Grants Awarded

Harrison High School

Chromebooks

For the 2015-2016 school year, the Foundation awarded a grant to the HCSD for the cost of 110 Chromebooks and related licenses. Some of the Chromebooks would be loaned on an annual basis to students in need, similar to the pre-existing method for loaning TI-84 calculators. Others would be maintained at HHS for various purposes such as daily use on loan to students whose device is unavailable, and to faculty and staff for training purposes. This was part of the District's "Bring Your Own Device" initiative for 6th-9th grades, and the grant application was made in connection with the ELA and Social Studies Departments' "Empathy, Empowerment and Action for the 21st Century" curricular initiative. Approximately 300 students per year were expected to benefit from this grant.

3-D Printers

For the 2015-2016 school year, the Foundation awarded a grant to the HCSD for the purchase of three 3-D Printers for use at Harrison High School. The 3-D Printers would be used in the High School's Technology Education program, including Design and Drawing for Production, Integrated Technology, and IB Design Technology Year 1 and Year 2 courses. In the past, students used power and hand tools in the wood shop to construct models for projects. A 3-D Printer would enable students to create models based on technical drawings and to test and evaluate their designs easily and quickly while keeping pace with emerging technology. Students would benefit from being able to take risks, make more sophisticated designs, and correct/re-design their work. Approximately 180 students per year were expected to benefit from this grant, as generally one third of each grade level takes a technology course while at the high school. The grant includes the cost of the printers, a three-year protection plan, and various peripherals.

Other

Significant grants from the Foundation have facilitated the creation or renovation of high school science labs, the high school's performing arts center and Black Box theater, and the high school's student union. Mini-grants from the Foundation have been used for educational workshops, performances and field trips.

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LMK Middle School

Vex Robotics

For the 2014-2015 school year, the Foundation awarded a grant to the HCSD for the cost of the Vex Robotics Program. The Program would introduce 8th graders to robotics, including concepts such as friction, center of gravity, mass, applied force, speed, torque and power. Approximately 300 students per year were expected to benefit from this grant.

Science and Technology Fairs

For the 2014-2015 school year, the Foundation awarded a grant to the HCSD for the cost of presentation boards for Science and Technology Fairs. 6th-8th grade students would be invited to participate in a six-week Science/Technology Fair Enrichment Program which would culminate in a science/technology fair. In addition, all 5th grade students in the District would be required to participate in the science fair as the culmination of a unit dedicated to the Scientific Method.

Other

Other grants from the Foundation include a grant for an interactive student response system in the secondary math classroom to record homework answers, allowing teachers to identify areas of weakness and plan for differentiated instruction. Mini-grants from the Foundation have been used for educational workshops, performances and field trips.

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Elementary Schools

K-3 iPad Literacy and Mathematics Initiative

For the 2014-2015 school year, the Foundation awarded a grant to the HCSD for part of the cost of 5 iPads for each K-3 classroom across the district over the next 2-3 years. The district would incorporate the balance of the cost into its budget. The iPads were to enhance Literacy and Mathematics instruction and learning by improving basic literacy and mathematic skills, increasing engagement, cultivating creativity, fostering collaboration and developing appropriate digital skills. Teachers would be trained in integrating this technology into their guided reading and learning centers and in using the technology to differentiate instruction. Approximately 1100 students (over a 2-year roll-out) were expected to benefit from this grant, with additional students benefiting in future years.

iPads for English Language Learners

For the 2014-2015 and 2015-2016 school years, the Foundation awarded grants to the HCSD for a portion of the cost of 50 iPads to be used for the Parsons ESL (English as a Second Language) program, now known as ENL (English as a New Language). Parson's ENL population represents approximately 20% of the school's total population. The iPads would give students more flexibility in the classroom and allow for more differentiated instruction. The balance of the cost was borne by the District. More than 100 students per year were expected to benefit from this grant.

Other

Grants from the Foundation have funded elementary programs including magnetic literacy kits for the development of word building skills; independent student listening centers; character-building curricular initiatives; and pilot SmartBoards in elementary classrooms. Mini-grants from the Foundation have been used for educational workshops, performances and field trips.

All Schools in the District

Electric String Quartet

For the 2015-2016 school year, the Foundation awarded a grant to the HCSD for the cost of electric string instruments, including a violin, viola, cello and bass, to benefit the stringed instrumental music programs at all six schools in the District. All string students in grades 4-12 would have first-hand experience playing on electric instruments and being exposed to alternative styles of string music such as jazz, rock, blues, country and multi-cultural music. Students would also develop a working knowledge of the sound production and live amplification aspects of the instruments. Approximately 350 students per year were expected to benefit from this grant.