

2003 - 2004
Mini-Grants Executive Summary

History Vessels (Grades 11 &12)- Alison Blair; \$500

The History Vessels project is an innovative art assignment for high school students. This project will combine photographic, 2-dimensional modern mediums, with the primitive craft of creating 3-dimensional objects from the earth. Students select a famous person to research and write about. The art teacher will introduce the concept of a narrative vessel and wheelwork, bringing in a visiting artist to assist each student on the potter's wheel. Then students will use the photo emulsion to transfer a picture of their famous person to the fired vessel in the darkroom. Grant funds will be used to pay for the visiting artist, clay, photo emulsion and chemicals used for this project. Students will be expected to write a research paper about the famous person they have chosen, be introduced to wheelwork by a local artisan, and learn about darkroom processes.

Earth Science CD Multimedia Textbook (Grades 9 & 10)- Timothy D. Dillon; \$500

The Earth Science CD Multimedia Textbook project will help students meet the requirements of Public Law 166 by ensuring basic level earth science students pass earth science, and improve student performance on the CAPT. Grant funds would be used to purchase a CD-based earth science textbook, which is designed for the special needs student. This format has three primary advantages. First, a multimedia CD has the ability to present concepts, which have been traditionally limited to still images and text, in animation and video formats. Second, students with reading disabilities can employ text-to-speech conversion programs, such as Kurzweil, to enhance reading comprehension without the need of scanned text files, as is currently done at CHS. This permits the reader to simultaneously read the text-to-speech and view any images that are on the page. Third, high school students are fascinated by multimedia presentations. They are more likely to read assigned text if it is in a multimedia format. Finally, the CD can also store homework assignment lists, printable handouts and worksheets, study guides, and practice tests.

School Nature Area (5th Grade)- Nora Jones, Lynne Steeves, Kathy Sandberg; \$500

The School Nature Area project is intended to improve learning of science concepts and increase problem solving and strategic thinking skills. Nature areas will be developed and utilized on or near school grounds. This project will be used initially for 175 fifth graders for science studies. It would eventually be modified to be suitable for use in grades 3 & 4, and expanded into other curricular areas. Through this program, students will demonstrate increased motivation, participation, and improved attitude by using the outdoors for learning. Students will become environmentally aware individuals within the community.

Using Digital Technology To Foster Oral Language And Literacy Within The Preschool Environment (CEED)- Marilyn Piecuch; \$500

The Using Digital Technology To Foster Oral Language And Literacy Within The Preschool Environment project will be used as a means to develop and extend literacy skills within the classroom setting and provide a connection to the children's environment. This project will enable children and parents an opportunity to utilize oral language to include vocabulary development, phonological awareness, phonemic awareness, sequence, inference, prediction, and higher order thinking skills. The teachers within the CEED and CCNS programs will take digital photographs of the children engaged in hands-on learning activities. These digital photographs can be printed out immediately to provide an opportunity to engage students in meaningful language activities. Digital photographs will provide interesting and important topics (themselves) to promote a two-way conversation between the teachers and children, and between the child and his/her peers. Expectations for this project will include individual language development based upon a progression of skills and developmental milestones.

Advanced Placement Training (Grades 11 & 12)- Wayne Schlegel; \$495

The Advanced Placement Training project will benefit students by providing well-trained staff for new course offerings. The English department is introducing its first Advanced Placement courses next year. Depending on enrollment, they will offer one or two AP sections of English 11 Honors, one AP section of English 12 Honors, and one AP section of UCONN Coop English. The eleventh grade course will prepare students for the AP Literature and Composition Exam. The two twelfth grade courses will prepare students for the AP Language and Composition Exam. To date, no one in the department has taken any formal training for teaching either course. Grant funds will be used to send three department members, who will teach these courses, to AP training workshops at the start of next year. Sponsored or approved by the College Entrance Examination Board, these workshops will enable our teachers to prepare our students for the rigorous English AP exams. Additionally, they will also be prepared for the SAT I and SAT II. Students will have the critical reading and writing skills that are required in college.