

2008 - 2009
Mini-Grants Executive Summary

Advanced Placement Art History Summer Institute (Grades 10-12) – Erin Holub;
\$400

In the 07-08 school year Coventry High began offering an AP Art History course. This course is a great connector with world history, as art is a reflection of the society and times in which it is created. After taking this class, students are able to recognize and appreciate art from a variety of sources and materials throughout time. Each year students are expected to take an AP exam. Grant funds for the *Advanced Placement Art History Summer Institute* project will allow the instructor to attend a summer program at Taft School in Watertown, CT. Participants of this seminar will learn ways to better streamline the course and will have the opportunity to collaborate with other teachers in the field to share ideas for other projects and extension activities to really make the course come alive. The ultimate goal is to increase the percentage of passing grades on the AP exams for students taking the AP Art History course.

Advanced Placement United States History Summer Institute (Grade 11) – Warren Herrington; \$400

An AP American History course is currently offered at Coventry High School. Grant funds for the *Advanced Placement United States History Summer Institute* project will allow the instructor to attend a week-long seminar on instructional strategies which best suit the teaching of AP United States History. Knowledge gained from this program will help to enhance the students' capacity to think critically and to evaluate sources. It will enable the instructor to move much more quickly through the curriculum while still focusing on skill development. Scores on the AP Exam should improve based upon the modifications to the instructional strategies. The learning of American History can help build an appreciation for the right to vote, cultural diversity and an awareness of traditional American culture. This project aims to promote such recognition among the students.

Adventure Program (Grades 6-8) – Fran Perrotti; \$400

Through experiential activities, participants learn strategies to increase trust and develop communication, leadership and problem-solving skills. The *Adventure Program* is an enrichment program designed to develop self confidence, interpersonal skills, problem-solving, and leadership skills to enhance relationships. Grant funds would be used to pay for a facilitator's services and/or program materials. There will be team building activities, group problem-solving initiatives, ropes course challenge, environmental education activities, and service learning projects. Students are encouraged to apply this knowledge to their lives and the classroom community. The expectation is a decrease in disciplinary referrals and an increase in good student behavior, positive interactions, and improved academic performance.

ASBDA 8th Grade Band Symposium (Grade 8 Band) – Anthony Susi; \$400

Through the *ASBDA 8th Grade Band Symposium* project CNH 8th grade band students will have the opportunity to perform with 8th grade band students from five other middle schools whose directors belong to the CT chapter of the American School Band Directors Association (ASBDA). The band members will benefit from the different insights and perspectives of the guest clinicians in regards to rehearsal techniques and musical interpretation. Student musicians usually have to go through an audition process and be selected for a festival experience like this. This unique format provides the opportunity for all 8th grade band members to perform with students from other schools under the direction of esteemed conductors regardless of their varying music abilities. Grant funds will be used for the Festival fee and transportation to the host school. It is important to teach each generation musical skills so they can preserve our cultural heritage and enrich our lives through ever-evolving styles.

Buon Giorno Amici (Grade 2) – Angela Puccia, Veronica Kim, Kathy Zanotti; \$500

In the near future children will be working, learning and living in a global environment which has been made possible by instant communication. The *Buon Giorno Amici* project will utilize this technology by partnering 2nd grade students at CGS with a classroom of 2nd grade students from Sicily. Students and adults in both locations will develop skills and a sense of world views while making connections with others. Grant funds will be used to purchase software, two web-cams, Coventry artifacts, children's books, and miscellaneous project supplies. This project will connect both groups to such Math concepts as money exchange, time differences, travel schedules and the language (words) used. It will also enable both groups to learn about the development of each language, share reading materials, and get experience in writing about each other.

Interactive Math (Grade 5) – Jeffrey Spivey; \$500

The everyday use of interactive technology is one of the most innovative teaching tools in the United States today. The *Interactive Math* project looks to integrate interactive whiteboard technology into the Grade 5 math curriculum. This will enhance the current “Everyday Math” program while providing students with interactive math applications that will motivate, enhance, and excite them in learning math concepts. Grant funds will be used to purchase a new Mimio Board, video projector, and cabling. The project will connect math to the real world by utilizing the same technologies that can be found in local fire and police stations and the Fortune 500 businesses. Students will have the ability to manipulate real world problems, make fully interactive presentations, and develop their abilities to speak, share, and work in front of an audience.

Sewing/Quilting Club (Grades 7-8) – Robin Rosen, Corine Cagianello-Jones, Denise McDermott, Gail Federowicz; \$500

Sewing is a very therapeutic activity which can help students learn patience and reduce stress and anxiety. The *Sewing/Quilting Club* will provide a wonderful opportunity for students to explore. Students will meet during one focus period per week. They will be instructed in basic use and operation of a sewing machine. Students work at their own pace with individualized instruction. Students will learn how to follow directions and develop a sense of pride and self-confidence in their accomplishments. They will cooperate with others as their learning and skills increase. Students will learn the value of sharing their own creations and abilities with others by deciding on and completing a group project for donation to a charity. Students will learn skills that are priceless and valued. Grant money will be used to purchase 2 Janome Schoolmates Sewing Machines.

Using Multimedia Tools to Enhance Performance in the CHS Drama Company (Grades 9-12) – Joanne Donoher-Ives; \$600

Using Multimedia Tools to Enhance Performance in the CHS Drama Company aims to improve performances by utilizing the latest technology. Grant funds would be used to purchase a DVD/CD Duplicator (and a supply of DVDs) that has the capacity to copy multiple DVDs in a few minutes. These DVDs will be used for instructional purposes. The current equipment can only copy in real time so it is impossible to provide students with DVDs to use as study tools. When musicals go into rehearsal, a DVD camcorder can be used to record the dances. The DVD Duplicator can then be used to create copies of the DVDs for all the cast members involved in the musical so they can review dance numbers outside of school rehearsal times. Students will be able to achieve mastery of skills earlier in the rehearsal process so that they can achieve greater depth of character development. They might be willing to take more risks if they know more support materials are available.