

2009 - 2010
Mini-Grants Executive Summary - Winners

Advanced Placement Art History Summer Institute (Grades 10-12) – Erin Holub; \$700

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.

Band Adjudication Festival (Grades 7 & 8 Band and Chorus) – Anthony Susi & Tony Gibbs; \$700

The 7th & 8th Grade Band and Chorus Students will have the opportunity to perform for a music adjudication festival where they will receive taped and written critiques from two professional judges. The band and chorus members will benefit from the different insights and perspectives of the judges as well as from receiving a great motivational experience. Students will work toward a common goal, which is to improve this year's rating/score. Band and chorus members will rehearse music for the Festival during their classes throughout the school year. Music is a universal language. Reading and performing rhythm reinforces math through the interpretation of abstracts symbols, addition, fractions (time signatures) and ratios (note values in relationship to time signatures). Grant funds will be used towards transportation and Festival fee.

Digital Portfolio for Kindergarten Literacy (Kindergarten) – Terry Bitwinski; \$700

By providing students the opportunity to reflect upon their reading performance, they gain valuable insight for directing future learning as well as becoming responsible for improving reading skills. In the beginning of the school year students will be recorded reciting the alphabet, retelling a story, or reading a wordless text. Then in January and May students will read a practiced text for recording. At the end of the year the student's information will be saved creating a portfolio to be shared with the following year's teacher providing them and the student's families with each child's progress. The ultimate object is to improve reading performance as measured by the DRA and improve reading fluency in kindergarten students. Funds received from the grant will be used to purchase a notebook PC, a webcam with microphone, and rewritable CD-RWs.

**Unlocking Literacy Using Multisensory Modalities (2nd Grade) – Nancy M. Plaster;
\$691.30**

This project intends to enhance the Reading/Language Arts area. Using the distinct colored Magnetic Tiles and the self-amplification Whisper Phone, the students will utilize and integrate various multisensory modalities (visual, auditory and kinesthetic) to learn and apply decoding skills. The program will begin in September and occur approximately 3-4 times a week in 15 minute segments throughout the 2009-2010 school year. This should help students to develop automaticity with auditory recognizable phonemes as they relate to patterns and specific spellings. Students using varied modalities to learn the reading process have a greater opportunity to retain and apply this process, and are more likely to read and develop cognitive abilities which are most certainly needed in the real world. Grant funds would be used to purchase all of the materials needed to execute this project.