

Huron Valley Education Foundation

2005 Grant Awards

“HABLA ESPANOL” – SPEAK SPANISH (*Grisel Alfaro/Milford High*)

The acquisition of the CLEAR (Center of Language Education and Research) system will enhance the World Language department at Milford High. It is a cutting edge audio portfolio system that includes video capabilities. Students will record a weekly speaking journal which can be compared to native speakers' samples, both audio and visual.

VIRTUAL SCIENCE LAB (*Lori Beach/Highland Elementary*)

Using Highland's current video production cart, 3rd grade students will take a “virtual” online field trip to COSI Columbus Hands-on Science Center. Students will work with “Simple Machines” kits real-time, while being virtually guided by instructors from COSI. This will expose the students to both science and the latest in interactive technology. *A Dr. Robert McCauley Memorial Grant.*

HANDWRITING WITHOUT TEARS (*Debbie Bonnewell/Lakewood Elementary*)

Head Start students will use the *Handwriting Without Tears Readiness* program. Use of this active learning and teaching program will encourage correct development of letters and fundamental skills necessary to get children “ready” to write well. The readiness program uses a multi-sensory approach, from workbooks to clay and sing alongs, to develop letter and number fluency and promote fine motor development.

HEALTHY HABITS FOR LIFE (*Jill Brower/Heritage Elementary*)

As students exercise their brains daily, it is important to also instill a desire for them to exercise their bodies. This grant program would fund pedometers and incentives for 5th grade students who have been challenged to *Run Across America*. The students have calculated the distance between New York City and Los Angeles and concluded that each student will need to run 29 miles by the holiday break to collaboratively run the distance. Following the *Run Across America*, a similar adventure will ensue as students *Backpack Across Europe*. By June students will have run a combined total of 5,000 miles.

COLLABORATIVE GROUP WORK (*Sharee' Cesarov/White Lake Middle*)

This project will utilize K'Nex kits for small group work with at-risk youth. Students working together as teams will construct carefully designed collaborative projects while learning to break down directions, find and fix mistakes, and accomplish a common goal. Help will be provided along the way for students to learn to give and receive constructive criticism, manage disagreements, and become active listeners. *A Fanning/Howey Associates Honorary Grant.*

MUSCLE DISSECTION (*Teresa Chludzinski/Lakeland High*)

It is a challenge for students, solely utilizing Anatomy and Physiology textbooks and computer programs, to understand muscle function, antagonistic muscle groups, and the difference between superficial and deep musculature. This grant program will allow the use of mature cat dissection specimens to significantly demonstrate key musculature differentiation.

CONNECTEDNESS, PRIDE & IDENTITY THRU ART (*Helen Fischer/Lakeland High*)

Art students at Lakeland High School will graphically design wall pieces to convey the interwoven nature of academics, arts and athletics. Real world connections will be made by inviting professional mentors in Huron Valley to help launch, guide and critique this process. Throughout the long-range project, students will work toward professional standards in creating their wall art. The completed artwork will be displayed to the community.

DIVERSITY – MAKING A DIFFERENCE (*Denise Forrest/Country Oaks Elem.& Heritage Festival*)

The goals of this grant program is for students and families to experience multi-cultural diversity through art, music and literature. At the Huron Valley Schools Heritage Festival, local artist and art educator, Barbara Cicchelli, will use

her 21 life-sized story teller figures to teach new cultural ideas and characteristics of cultures both within and outside of our community. Workshops will be held for students and families to create their own storyteller figures.

SEWING FOR CHARITY (*Delaney Geisner/Highland Middle*)

Seventh and Eighth grade Skills for Living classes will make a stuffed animal, pillow or blanket that will be then be donated to various charities for needy children and groups. Through the sewing projects, students will be acquiring a life skill while experiencing the act of giving back to the community and making a difference in someone's life.

PROMOTING READING AT HMS: MORE OF A GREAT THING (*Hilary Grant/Highland Middle*)

It is no small feat to impress a teenager with reading. HMS began a poster promotion last year that photo-featured local "celebrities" (school staff, community leaders) reading their favorite middle school book; it stimulated many conversations about books. The goal this year is to tie into the Sustained, Silent Reading program, adding student celebrities, and state and federal officials to the poster assortment.

AWESOME STARS (*Shelly Gustafson/Highland Middle*)

Using hands-on activities, eighth grade students will come to understand the stars they see. Through the *Universe at Your Fingertips* series, students will scale the evolution of our universe to a one-year calendar, with the Big Ban occurring on the first moment of January 1st. Additional features of the Star Unit will include viewing an IMX video which will illustrate the size of the universe in relation to the earth and inner workings of an atom that cause the star to burn.

MARQUIS PROJECT (*Pat Hinzy/White Lake Middle*)

Many middle school students do not participate in activities because they miss information related to scheduling or location of activities. With HVEF funding, two LED scrolling marquee signs will be purchased and mounted in key sites at White Lake Middle School. Approximately 30 Special Education seventh and eighth grade students will be responsible for obtaining information from teachers and posting it on the signs along with information on intramural sports, student activities, and club events.

MOTOR MOMS AND DADS (*Karen Ann Howells/Brooks Elementary*)

Before a child can learn, brain research shows there must be visual motor integration, as well as fine and gross motor skills. Motor Moms and Dads will utilize trained parents to work individually with kindergarten through second grade students, 5 minutes each day. Using equipment purchased with grant funds, students will develop bi-lateral motor skills, balance and coordination. Additionally, the exercises will help staff and parents identify special motor skills needs individual students may have.

THE GREAT LAKES BOOK AWARD PROGRAM (*Mary Hughes/Heritage Elementary and Dee Stoddard/Apollo Elementary — 2 grants*)

School-wide reading and election processes will be implemented at Heritage and Apollo Elementary schools with the aide of this grant. The Great Lakes Great Books Award program is a statewide program. Each year books are nominated by teachers and parents and then eight books at every grade level (K-12) are selected. Students will read a minimum of 5 of the 8 selected books. In February students will vote for their favorite book and the winning books will be announced in March.

A RIVER RUNS THROUGH IT (*Michelle Iaconelli/Spring Mills Elementary*)

Two habitats, an indoor aquatic habitat (marsh, river and watershed) and mini indoor garden will be researched and created by fifth grade students. Students will make comparisons of growth and change between the human-sustained and outdoor natural habitats. Ecosystem aspects such as food webs, direct and indirect energy impact and pollution problems will be observed. *A Barton Malow Design/Construction Services Honorary Grant.*

FLOATING FRAMES (*Tara Johnson/Muir Middle*)

Everyone stepping foot into Muir Middle School will be inspired by the artistic abilities and efforts of Muir art students. Forty floating frames will be purchased to showcase the students' artworks, while providing the students with intrinsic and extrinsic rewards of a job well done. Selections for display will be made based on effort and uniqueness of design and students will be asked to provide feedback regarding getting their art chosen for display.

HERE COMES THE JUDGE (*Vicki Kaid/Muir Middle*)

The Judge is an 8-light model that allows students to make responses in a ‘game- show-like’ fashion showing which student buzzed in to answer first. *The Judge* could have widespread use at Muir, but will first be used to enhance the bully-proofing program. Students will be divided into teams, a moderator will ask questions from bully-proofing lessons, and students will compete for points. *A Barbara Gavitt Memorial Grant.*

TEACHER-PARENT-STUDENT BOOK STUDY (*Ann Koss/Oxbow*)

Before students can write well, they must understand how to do *deep thinking*. To achieve this, good literature must be studied by pondering author intent and story values. Students and parents will be guided through discussions about the common books being read and the author’s thoughts, characters and values, as well as connections to other books. Each participant will be asked to write about their feelings and attitudes about the experience at the beginning and conclusion of the program.

SPANISH ARTISTS (*Catherine Longcore/Milford High*)

An important component of foreign language study is to convey the culture behind the language. The Spanish IV classes at Milford study various Spanish artists (ie: Greco, Goya, Picasso, Dali) and hear guest speakers from the history department to deepen their understanding. Grant money will give the students a unique opportunity to see authentic pieces at the DIA in a culmination of their studies synthesizing the humanities, language, history and art. *A Thomas Ormandy Memorial Grant.*

WELCOME TO THE REEF (*Chris McAuliffe/Oxbow Elementary*)

A coral reef salt water tank will be purchased with grant funds and used as a broad-based learning tool for the fifth grade students at Oxbow. The ongoing study of coral reef community life and the delicate balance that is needed to maintain the ecosystem will provide unlimited learning opportunities. Students will use lessons learned in their reef studies to create team research projects for the LEGO *Ocean Odyssey* competition.

HANDWRITING WITHOUT TEARS (*Megan McQuillan/Apollo Elementary*)

PAL will use the *Handwriting Without Tears* program to address the often-delayed fine motor skills of preschool, special needs students. This program uses manipulatives to enhance fine motor skills needed for writing, coloring beyond a scribble and even school readiness skills such as letter and shape recognition. The Handwriting program will be utilized during occupational therapy groups and during classroom activities.

GEL ELECTROPHORESIS (*Joanna Moreno/Lakeland High*)

Gel electrophoresis is the process used to separate molecules of DNA. Grant money will be used to purchase a special apparatus for this unique biotechnology. It will be utilized directly by AP Biology students in lab work studying molecule transformation, resistance and related conditions. Results will be observed by other biology students and also via teacher demonstrations to entire biology classes.

WEATHER MONITORING STATION (*Cheryl Peters/White Lake Middle*)

A weather monitoring station will allow students to record, graph and predict daily weather. Based on the understanding of weather patterns and storms, students will assess the validity of scientific claims presented in the movie “The Day After Tomorrow” and the real world implications of human activities on the climate.

PLANTS AND BUTTERFLY HABITAT (*Jennifer Pipkin/Spring Mills Elementary*)

A Grow Lab and Seed Starting Kit and a classroom Butterfly Habitat Lab will be introduced to the 1st/2nd grade split class at Spring Mills. The study of plants and animals is a large portion of the science curriculum, and this project will extend to math, reading and writing. In the spring, the plants started indoors will be added to the established garden the students maintain outside.

THE REWARDS OF RECYCLING (*Rachael Postle/Harbor High*)

As part of the new recycling unit in the Advanced Biology class at Harbor High School, students will be promoting recycling in the Highland community. With the help of grant funds students will purchase materials to construct bottle depository containers to be placed in key locations such as like car washes, gas

stations and parks. The students will be in charge of emptying and maintaining the sites. As an added bonus money earned from bottle returns will be used as a Harbor High School fundraiser.

SUMMER OUTDOOR GAMES (*Mary Ann Rickens/Country Oaks Elementary*)

With obesity on the rise and inactivity being cited as one of the culprits, this set of activities will expose students to traditional games that support lifelong activity. Croquet, Bocce Ball, Horseshoes and Shuffleboard games will be purchased with grant funds. These games will be taught during physical education classes to all Country Oaks students and will give students skills to play these games with parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles and so on.

LITERARY MAGAZINE (*Debora Ryan/Muir Middle*)

This is an enrichment activity open to all students who wish to contribute pieces to be published and to those who wish to be a part of the publishing process. The literary magazine will be a medium through which students can experience various phases of publication: from selection of stories, poems, opinion pieces or artwork (pieces will be judged by the magazine staff as part of a contest they design) to magazine layout and marketing. The contest winners, contributing authors/artists will be published in spring.

FANFARE FOR FINE ARTS (*Robert Green/Lakeland HS and Heather Schultz/White Lake Middle*)

Tom Dennis will be commissioned to write a fanfare for the brass section of White Lake Middle and Lakeland High School. It will then bring together students from grades 6 – 12 in a unique experience. They will meet, work and perform with their peers in a fun, non-competitive atmosphere. The experience will culminate when the combined bands open this year's Celebration of the Arts Festival.

HANDS-ON EQUATIONS (*Tracie Smith/Oak Valley Middle*)

Beginning algebra students often experience confusion when introduced to algebraic concepts and processes. This grant will help to bridge that gap. *Hands-On Equations* is a visual and kinesthetic teaching system which will use game pieces to represent parts of equations and perform legal moves to simplify and solve equations. A *Eugene Piesko Memorial Grant*.

MUIR CARD SHOP (*Becky Swain, Muir Middle*)

At Muir, the Cognitive Impaired class will be starting a small business, from product development to marketing. They will make greeting cards using cardstock, stamps and embellishments. The cards will be sold during lunch and possibly before school. The proceeds will be used to purchase supplies for their Activities of Daily Living class, Community-Based Instruction expenses and class incentives.

FIELD VIDEO PRODUCTION (*Richard Tannous/Lakeland High*)

The ability to do field video production enhances student learning for the video class on-location/field production shoots. The purchase of a jib arm will allow students to utilize creative filming using fluid crane shot like those used extensively in broadcasting and film production. The grant funds will also partially subsidize project location fees allowing access to otherwise cost prohibitive locations.

STARRY NIGHT SOFTWARE (*Gary van Staveren/Oak Valley Middle*)

New cutting edge software will combine with technology at Oak Valley to give eighth grade students the ability to tour through space virtually. Using in-class televisions and a SmartBoard, the software will simulate what it would be like to fly from one side of the universe to the other, experience the parallax or the nebula – possibly even with students at the controls.

STUDENT-RUN BOOKSTORE (*Amy Veach/Brooks Elementary*)

A student-run bookstore will provide students, teachers and parents convenient access to quality literature at bargain prices. It will also allow Brooks students to have access to affordable materials to read at home while providing a real world experience for the workers to run a business, handle money and even the responsibility of having a job.