

EPHRATA AREA EDUCATION FOUNDATION
803 OAK BOULEVARD
EPHRATA, PA 17522



MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release
September 19, 2011

Ephrata Area Education Foundation Awards Nearly \$14,500 in Grants

September 19, 2011 – The Ephrata Area Education Foundation Board of Directors is pleased to announce the winners of *2011-2012 Venture Grants* totaling nearly \$14,500. Fifteen grants have been awarded to Ephrata Area School District teachers to help enhance and expand educational experiences and opportunities for students. The grants provide funding to support creative and innovative programs that would not normally be funded through the school budget.

Twelve \$1,000 grants were awarded. In addition, three grants ranging from \$650 to \$920 were also awarded. Listed below are the grant titles, recipients, and a brief description.

- **Artist in Residence - Public Mosaic (\$1,000), Ephrata High School Art Teacher Trevor Hershey**
The grant will provide funding to have an artist work with Ephrata High School art students. The artist will facilitate the creation of a wall mural to be displayed in the building and will provide mentoring and technical guidance.
- **Body/Vocal Percussion and Movement for the Middle School and High School Students (\$1,000), Music Teachers Kristie Ohlinger and Jacqueline Owsinski**
The grant will provide funding for a fine arts workshop to expose students to a world of sound, music, dance, coordination, and creativity.
- **Classroom Activities/Centers Based on the *Action Based Learning Lab* (\$1,000), Highland Elementary School Teachers Ashley Lapp and Nancy Murphy**
The grant will provide funding for materials and training in Highland Elementary School Kindergarten, 1st, and 2nd Grade classrooms to expand the use of *Action Based Learning*, which provides hands-on brain stimulating physical activities.
- **FlashMaster (\$1,000), Highland Elementary School 4th Grade Teachers**
The grant will be used to purchase handheld electronic devices to help students strengthen the speed and accuracy of addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division skills.

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- **Forensic Identification of an Unknown Substance: A Chemical Murder Mystery (\$1,000), Ephrata High School Science Teacher Carlyn Fryberger**
The project will increase opportunities for students to learn advanced researching technologies and utilize inquiry investigations in chemical analysis.
- **Fun with Books (\$1,000), Highland Elementary School 3rd Grade Teachers**
Sets of books will be purchased for students to read and use to complete independent study projects. The books will help students learn about different types of literature, understand text, and identify literacy devices, such as similes and alliteration.
- **Heart Rate Monitors (\$1,000), High School Physical Education and Health Teachers**
The grant will be used to purchase heart rate monitors that Ephrata High School students will use to monitor their performance and learn about the life-long benefits of physical activity.
- **Increasing Student Engagement and Ownership through the Use of Online Courses (\$920), Washington Education Center and Ephrata Virtual Academy Coordinator Dan Mahlandt**
The grant will fund the purchase of an online program, ALEKS, to offer greater flexibility in offering math instruction to students attending summer school. ALEKS provides instruction at the student's pace and helps meet individual student's needs.
- **Let the Learning Continue (\$1,000), Clay Elementary School Kindergarten Teachers Debra Rakow and David Trout**
The program will continue to build upon skills taught in the *Let the Learning Begin* pre-school workshops. Kindergarten students and their families will be invited to participate in activities to strengthen academic skills.
- **Life Skills and Pre-Vocational Developmental Skills (\$1,000), Ephrata High School Learning Support Teacher Patrice Laboranti**
The grant will provide funding for materials, manipulatives, and tasks for special needs students to provide an opportunity for repeated practice in vocational and everyday life-related skills.
- **Lighting the Spark with E-Readers (\$1,000); Kellie Ludwig, an Ephrata High School Language Arts Teacher, and Candy Blessing, Media Specialist**
The grant will be used to purchase E-Readers and high-interest books to provide additional reading support for students enrolled in the Literacy Strategies class.
- **Making the Link through School and Workplace Partnerships (\$1,000), Akron Elementary School Staff**
The program is a school-wide approach to career development through partnerships with the community and trips to local businesses for students to answer, "How does my schooling link to my future?" and to learn how employees work together to complete projects and goals. The grant will fund the cost of transportation for students to visit area businesses.

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- **Quiz Bowl: Not a Trivial Pursuit (\$900), Quiz Bowl Advisor Cindy Kauffman**
The grant will provide funding to register an Ephrata High School team in the Lancaster-Lebanon Quiz Bowl League, provide transportation, and provide buzzers needed for competition. Quiz Bowl is a team competition that focuses on a broad range of academic subjects and helps students strengthen their memorization and study skills.
- **Up for the Challenge (\$1,000), Clay Elementary School 4th Grade Teachers Adam Zeni and Sue Halsey**
The grant will provide funding for an after-school program to offer additional enrichment to academically advanced students. Math and reading challenges will be provided with educational, hands-on games.
- **Who are the Amish? (\$650), Ephrata High School Social Studies Teachers Lisa Brimhall and Keith Mitchell**
Funds from the grant will be used to purchase books about the Amish culture to provide Ephrata High School students enrolled in Pennsylvania History the opportunity to learn more about the Amish culture and beliefs.

Since its inception in 2004, the Ephrata Area Education Foundation has supported the Ephrata Area School District by funding over 50 *Venture Grants*. The number of grants awarded annually is dependent upon donations received to fund the grants. Alumni, community members, and businesses can support the Foundation with tax-deductible donations. Donations can be mailed to the Ephrata Area Education Foundation, 803 Oak Blvd., Ephrata, PA 17522. Please contact Kati Farrer at (717) 721-1465 or k_farrer@ephrataeducation.org more information.

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