

GEF Donates Over \$161,000 to Classrooms in 2011-12

Below is a list of the nine grants that received funding from the Glenview Education Foundation for the 2011-12 school year. Just over \$161,000 was donated back to District 34 schools in the form of advanced technology and educational programming. And 100% of the money came from you -- District 34 parents, businesses and community members!

Ukelele Rocks: Fostering Creativity, Community and Life-Long Arts Appreciation Through Art and Social Music Making

With art and music offered to 6th graders for one trimester each, this grant, awarded to Attea's art and music teachers, spans two curricula to address the learning targets identified in both disciplines. In the third trimester of last year, every Attea 6th grader received the components to construct and design his/her own ukulele. Now complete, students this year will learn how to play their instruments and eventually how to compose and perform their own music both alone and with others. The grant's focus is on achieving incremental success and improving executive function skills.

ExploreLearning Gizmos

The ability to participate in hands-on experiments and inquiry-based learning on topics as abstract as how the moon causes tides or how the tilt of the earth results in the seasons was the objective of the ExploreLearning Gizmos grant. Every teacher at Pleasant Ridge received a subscription to this manipulative-based Internet math and science program. Additionally, every $3^{\rm rd}-5^{\rm th}$ grade student had his/her own account for use whenever it was needed, enabling the real-time collection and application of data to otherwise difficult-to-understand concepts.

Critical Listening in Primary Grades

With this grant the K-2nd grade music teachers at Henking, Lyon and Westbrook implemented district-wide music listening centers. Funds covered the purchase of 24 iPod Touches, enabling a streamlining of the group listening experience (children no longer have to gather around a single player with headphones). It also facilitates the efficient creation of curriculum-based playlists that address aural topics such as high/low, instrument-specific and music genres. And in addition to listening, the students are exposed to apps that visually demonstrate the concepts of melody, tempo and beat.





Big Learning – Bigger Learners

This fall, as a result of last year's highly successful, limited scale roll-out of iPads at Henking, Lyon and Westbrook, GEF has agreed to partner with the district in implementing 1:1 iPad learning in four classrooms at each of the intermediate schools: Hoffman, Pleasant Ridge and Glen Grove. Last year's preliminary iPad installation was primarily funded by the Glenview Education Foundation. Year two

of the iPad pilot will be jointly financed by GEF and the district. In addition to educational impacts, another driver for expanding the 1:1 iPad trial is to evaluate implementing a district-wide roll-out within the next few years. This change in the district's technology platform would ultimately result in a significant cost savings versus the purchase of laptops.

Science Olympiad

Continuing its investment in the "S" (for science) segment of the STAR Initiatives, GEF has again provided a grant for the middle school science enrichment program, Science

Olympiad. Open to all $6^{th}-8^{th}$ graders at Attea and Springman Middle Schools, Science Olympiad is an after-school club for students interested in developing a deeper understanding and passion for science. Participating students comprise teams at the varsity and junior varsity



levels and compete in local, regional and even state competitions. Last school year the Springman team did well enough at regionals to qualify for the Illinois state tournament.



Eighth Annual GEF Recital Night

This long-standing GEF-sponsored event provides an in-district opportunity for band, orchestra and choral students to prepare and perform solo and ensemble pieces for professional musicians in a clinic/master class format. The festival is typically held the first week of February.

E-Books: Using Technology to Increase Reading Performance

In an effort to increase availability of popular titles, address struggling, reluctant and/or remedial readers and further engage students in a skill that touches every subject area, Glen Grove School received a grant for the purchase of 800 e-books. The books are located on the Glen Grove "Shelf," accessible via the school's Web site. In this way students are able to "check-out" their desired e-books and view them on computers or iPads at school or at home.



Solar Power Education and Enrichment

Thanks to a supplemental grant from GEF, Attea Middle School has installed solar panels on its rooftop so data and output from the panels can be incorporated into the school's 6th, 7th and 8th grade science curricula. Science teachers will be able to use the solar panels to illustrate concepts in environmental science, photosynthesis, physical science, weather and alternative energy. The grant additionally covers solar education materials for use in the classroom.

We Are Family . . . A Parent Education Program Focused on the Challenges of "Special Needs" Learners

Beginning this school year, parents of special needs students throughout the district will be invited to attend a minimum of four evening programs addressing such topics as ADHD, autism, and general learning disabilities. Sponsored by District 34's three intermediate school principals and funded by GEF, this parent education program aims to support families of challenged children by addressing issues such as getting appropriate care and accommodations; adjusting routines and expectations; promoting acceptance in the extended family, school, and community; and planning for an uncertain future.

If you would like to ensure more of these programs and technologies are placed in your children's classrooms, please donate now. Feel free to make a secure online donation at GEF's Web site, www.gef34.org, or complete and mail the donor slip below. (And as an added bonus, we will remove you from our November Phone-a-Thon call list!)

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