

2011 – 2012 Mini Grant Awards

<p>Lisa Waddell - \$875 Albion High School Albion Public Schools <i>“Choices 4 Success”</i></p>	<p>Ninth grade students in the Reading Apprenticeship Academic Literacy class will enjoy engaging, relevant books during Sustained Silent Reading time. Establishing classroom libraries will allow all 7th-12th grade students to enjoy new books.</p>
<p>Susan Dunckel - \$1,000 Harrington Elementary Albion Public Schools <i>“To Infinity and Beyond, Again”</i></p>	<p>Grant funding will provide transportation for fifth grade students to five weekly visits to Space Camp at the Air National Guard Base, also known as Star Base, in Battle Creek. Space Camp is a free, federally funded, hands-on program which concentrates on math and science objectives for fourth through seventh grades. The program exposes students to materials and technology that are not available in most school districts.</p>
<p>Lucy Lower - \$800 Ann J. Kellogg Elementary Battle Creek Public Schools <i>“The World on a Stage”</i></p>	<p>Elementary students will learn about other cultures around the world by performing music, song, and dance native to other countries. The students will present what they have learned at a spring performance for their families and community members. Following the performance, refreshments representative of various cultures will be served.</p>
<p>April Jones - \$500 Springfield Middle School Battle Creek Public Schools <i>“Financial Literacy Channels”</i></p>	<p>Financial Literacy Channels will support required Careers/EDP classes for eighth grade students. The online streaming videos focus on finance, ethics, economics, consumer education, employment skills, and entrepreneurship. Additionally, the students will learn about money management, budgeting, saving, investing, work related issues, and the importance of financial independence.</p>
<p>Sally Stewart - \$1,000 Coldwater High School Coldwater Community Schools <i>“Math Enrichment and Social/Cultural Programs”</i></p>	<p>Cognitively impaired and learning disabled students in grades 9-12 will learn important life skills, math skills, and how to handle money with this four-part project. The students will have dinner at a local restaurant where they will order from a menu and calculate the cost of their meal and tip. The next part of the project allows students to plan, purchase, and make a dinner for the homeless in their community. Additionally, students will plan, budget, and shop for the Adopt-a-Child Christmas program. The final activity will allow them to visit the Wing House Museum.</p>
<p>Christian Roberts - \$950 Lakeland Elementary Coldwater Community Schools <i>“A Stroll Down Newbery Lane”</i></p>	<p>Newbery Award books will energize and entertain fourth and fifth grade students in this building. The students will analyze stories, learn to compare and contrast, persuade and inform, and to argue and defend the actions of characters they have read about both in their written works and spoken words.</p>

<p>Janine Sharrard - \$1,000 Legg Middle School Coldwater Community Schools <i>"I Feel a Need to Read"</i></p>	<p>A variety of genres and interesting non-fiction and fiction paperback and hardback novels will be purchased for 7th grade English Language Arts students. The books will be purchased at a local bookstore that offered a discount. The great variety of titles will motivate students to read longer, developing stamina and fluency; skills that will help them excel in high school and college.</p>
<p>Rebecca Gardner - \$1,000 Harper Creek High School Harper Creek Community Schools <i>"Implementing a Reading/Writing Workshop"</i></p>	<p>This classroom will follow the model of Penny Kittle and Nancy Atwell as it is developed into a Reading/Writing Workshop classroom. Books, shelves, file cabinets and bean bag chairs will encourage individual choice and growth. Reading logs, book conferences, and reading responses will identify strengths and weaknesses in reading behaviors. Students will talk about their reading with the teacher and making connections to their life, the world, and other texts.</p>
<p>Martha Gibbons - \$925 Hastings High School Hastings Area Schools <i>"Flex Your Brain 1"</i></p>	<p>The English Language Arts department in this high school is committed to implementing the practices of Reading/Writing Workshop and Common Core Curriculum. High interest, engaging, and appealing books will be placed in a room converted from a classroom into a library. The library will be visited by every ELA class on a regular basis. Teachers will keep track of the books their students borrow. ELA teachers will staff the library before and after school to stock, organize and check out books to students.</p>
<p>Kris Flood - \$925 Hastings High School Hastings Area Schools <i>"Flex Your Brain 2"</i></p>	<p>Grant funding for this project will allow additional books to supplement the library mentioned above. The additional books will give all students, from advanced to struggling readers, greater free choice in literary selections.</p>
<p>Lisa Wilson - \$975 Star Elementary Hastings Area Schools <i>"Five Alive in Kindergarten"</i></p>	<p>Books, MP3 players, bean bags, binders, magnet mats, Wikki Stix, and other literacy support materials will allow the implementation of the Daily Five in this Kindergarten classroom. The Daily Five is a set of literacy tasks, read to self, read to someone, listen to reading, word work, and work on writing, that are designed to ensure all students are engaged in meaningful literacy experiences at their level of challenge every day, allowing the teacher to meet with small groups or individuals.</p>
<p>Lora Finch - \$1,000 Homer High School Homer Community Schools <i>"Hydroponics for Horticulture"</i></p>	<p>New materials to support hydroponics education will be purchased for this high school. The materials will allow students experiential learning of horticulture concepts in addition to fulfilling science benchmarks.</p>

<p>Sue Flanders and Trish Garvey - \$1,000 Gordon Elementary Marshall Public Schools <i>"Math Club"</i></p>	<p>An after-school Math Club will support the essential of Response to Intervention Math and Math Recovery concepts for Kindergarten through second grade students. Struggling students will be selected based on teacher referral and below grade level district math scores. The Math Club will meet one day a week for 45 minutes and strengthen student math skills through enjoyable games and activities. Pre and post tests will provide data for measurable outcomes. In addition, the materials purchased will be available for all students in this building during school hours.</p>
<p>Annette Burnett - \$950 Marshall High School Marshall Public Schools <i>"Barista"</i></p>	<p>Cognitively Impaired (CI) and Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) students will develop job/life skills that will help them after high school with the creation and running of a school coffee bar. The barista station will be run by CI and ASD students and staff as well as students in the LINKS program who provide a social role model for ASD students. The students will practice job and social skills in ways that cannot be duplicated in the classroom through interaction with "coworkers, bosses, and customers".</p>
<p>Wanda Kleinfelt - \$1,000 Fern Persons Elementary Olivet Community Schools <i>"Take a Shot!"</i></p>	<p>This project will provide a digital camera for each grade level, a memory card for each teacher, and a photo dock for printing pictures. The cameras will document class projects, field trips, and other important classroom events. The photos will be used for writing prompts, illustrating the steps of a procedure, creating class books, to illustrate concepts, etc.</p>
<p>Cindy Wixson - \$1,000 Fern Persons Elementary Olivet Community Schools <i>"Storytelling the 21st Century Way"</i></p>	<p>At-risk Kindergarten through third grade students will have the opportunity to increase reading fluency with the purchase of 2 Nook Color electronic reading tablets, iPod Shuffles, e-books, audio books, books with CDs, and headphones. The equipment will eventually be available for check out by any students when not in use during intervention time.</p>
<p>Anna O'Dell - \$1,000 Olivet High School Olivet Community Schools <i>"Appealing to the 2011 Student: Reading and Writing for a Global Audience"</i></p>	<p>High school students will choose the titles of books ordered for this project. They will research titles, analyze critics' opinions, judge the literary merit of the text, determine the genre, reading level, etc. The students will also be involved in purchasing the books; budgeting, ordering, and following through with purchase orders. Additionally, the class will design a reading blog where they will individually critique the novels they have read.</p>
<p>Amy Frost - \$925 Purdy and North Pennfield Elementaries Pennfield School District <i>"Good Fit Books"</i></p>	<p><u>Brand New Readers</u>, level A, B, and C books, will support Daily Five and CAFÉ' models of instruction for Kindergarten students. The books are engaging, well written, and have beautiful illustrations that will entice the youngest readers in these buildings. The books will allow students to practice comprehension, accuracy, fluency, and vocabulary strategies at their level in addition to developing reading stamina.</p>

<p>Taria Olds - \$1,000 Calhoun Christian <i>"Dance Buddies"</i></p>	<p>High schools students, paired with a first grade buddy, will increase their own understanding of concepts and improve retention of skills by planning lessons and teaching skills to the younger students. The younger students will benefit from having the high school mentors. Grant funding will supply portable ballet bars, dance streamers, and flags.</p>
<p>Erin Olds - \$1,000 Calhoun Christian <i>"Spanish Skype Project"</i></p>	<p>Middle and high school students sharpen their Spanish skills with native speakers in the Dominican Republic. Grant funds will supply the Spanish classroom with a laptop, data projector, and webcam so students may talk to their pen pals from last year and adult speakers, through Skype. A translator in the Dominican Republic, who visited the school last year, will help with the project there. The students will learn the value of language and improving their foreign language skills.</p>
<p>Sandra Ringle - \$1,000 Pansophia Academy <i>"Science Exploration"</i></p>	<p>Kindergarten through fifth grade students will expand their scientific knowledge with six teacher facilitated hands-on science labs to explore a scientific concept. The Battle Creek Area Math/Science Center curriculum supporting the labs will meet state benchmarks. In addition, an evening science fair will be held so students can demonstrate science concepts to their families.</p>

Focus Grant Awards

Focus Grants align with concepts presented in *Focus*, by Mike Schmoker.

<p>Wes McCrae - \$5,000 Bronson Jr./Senior High School Bronson Community Schools <i>“School Wide Book Study”</i></p>	<p>A school wide book study will be implemented for 9th-12th grade students to improve intellectual/thinking skills (argument, problem solving, reconciling, opposing views, and drawing conclusions) following the concepts in Mike Schmoker’s book, <i>Focus</i>. Three core departments, ELA, Science, and Social Studies, have selected books that they will introduce to students through book talks. The students will choose which book studies they wish to participate in. While four books will be studied, all sections will have the same syllabus, assignments, requirements, expectations, and grading standards. Each class will encourage silent, sustained reading, encourage group discussions, debate, and an end-of-course argumentative essay on a book related topics. The books will also be available to interested community members and the school will host book study groups.</p>
<p>Sara Hendershot - \$5,000 Gifford-Schultz Building Calhoun Intermediate School District on behalf of the Rethinking Secondary Literacy group comprised of educators from thirteen school districts in Barry, Branch, and Calhoun school districts. <i>“First Things First: Effective Secondary Literacy”</i></p>	<p>This project will be implemented by a professional learning community comprised of thirty secondary English language arts teachers representing thirteen area school districts. The team, who have met/worked together for more than a year will implement two focus areas: authentic, relevant literacy and effective lessons. The group will invite renowned teacher/author Kelly Gallagher to present his ideas surrounding literacy; formulate specific district/building/classroom plans reflective of Mike Schmoker and Gallagher’s works; implement Penny Kettle’s and Nancy Atwell’s work; provide each participant with a collection of young adult literature to aide literacy instruction; and assess, through feedback and surveys the impact on student achievement.</p>
<p>Cynthia Schofield - \$5,000 Harper Creek High School Harper Creek Community Schools <i>“Making the Invisible Visible”</i></p>	<p>Eleventh grade ELA students will use Nook electronic reading tablets to read complex texts. The students will be taught Guided Highlight Reading; a text based reading strategy that provides support for analytical reading of complex text in any discipline of study. The Nook will allow for scaffolding students through reflective prompts that emphasize reading for summary, analyzing craft, and assessing vocabulary. In addition students will be able to make margin notes or annotations on their reading which will allow for quick assessment of their need and adjustments to instruction.</p>

<p>Laura Williams - \$3,000 Minges Brook Elementary Lakeview School District <i>"Kids Who Read Succeed"</i></p>	<p>The funding for this project will supply this Kindergarten through fifth grade building with books for well designed, well stocked classroom libraries. Other components of this project include daily sustained reading with "just right" books; teachers as readers, participating in book studies and clubs; time for sharing and book talks; use of formative assessments; well-maintained reading records; parent engagement, and professional development for teachers.</p>
<p>Brock Peters - \$5,000 Fern Persons Elementary Olivet Community Schools <i>"A "Focus"ed First Grade Reading Project"</i></p>	<p>The reading instruction methods of Mike Schmoker and Richard Allington will be implemented in all first grade classrooms. First grade teachers will receive professional reading materials and visual materials needed to build their understanding of best practices in reading instruction. In support of the new instruction, monthly half-day grade level meetings will be attended by the general education teachers, reading specialist, principal, and literacy coach. The grade level meetings will be followed up with weekly walk-throughs by the principal to assess new learning and provide support when needed. The literacy coach will also meet monthly with the principal to provide time to build early literacy understanding and guidance with walk-throughs. Additionally, leveled classroom libraries will be purchased. Finally, data conferences with the principal and literacy coach will track student achievement.</p>