

Foundation 153 announced that has awarded over \$36,000 to fund various learning projects throughout Homewood School District 153. The funds were granted in two separate granting cycles -- the first cycle was implemented during the remainder of the 2010-11 school year, and the second will be implemented during the 2011-12 school year.

Grants awarded for the mid-year 2010-11 cycle are:

James Hart Chess Club. Support is provided to offset costs of the club's participation in nationally-rated chess tournaments.

Guest Speaker for James Hart . Storyteller Anne Shimojima will share with James Hart 8th-grade history students the story of her family and the forced Japanese-American internment during World War II.

Millennium School Weather Bug Tracking Station. Millennium School will implement the web-based program, Weather Bug Schools, allowing students to record weather data and track trends throughout the year.

Reading Adventures. Mrs. Morris and Mrs. DeBoer will pilot a 1st-grade differentiated, independent reading program at Willow School.

Independent Daily Reading. A variety of books for below-grade readers will be purchased for use in Churchill School's 3rd-grade classrooms.

Reading Across the Curriculum. Novels and chapter books to supplement social studies lessons will be purchased for the James Hart Daily Living Skills classroom.

Current Science Magazine. Subscriptions to "Current Science" magazine will be purchased to supplement the 7th-grade science curriculum at James Hart.

Technology. Support is provided to purchase various classroom technologies including a SMART Response System pilot project at Willow School, Flip Camcorders for Millennium School, NEO2 keyboards for Churchill School and an additional SMART board for James Hart School.

Field Trips. Support is provided to help with the school district's share of the costs for the 6th-grade field trip to the White Pines Ranch and the 7th-grade trip to Springfield.

Grants awarded for the 2011-2012 school year are:

Enhancing the Churchill School Library. Multiple copies of the 2012 Monarch Award Nominee books will be purchased for the school library.

Purchasing "Just Right" Books for the 1st Grade. 1st grade teachers will create book bin lending libraries so that appropriate reading materials can be sent home for children and parents to use together.

Willow Community Garden. Funds are provided to enable Willow School to create a community garden in its currently unused courtyard. The fruits and vegetables raised there will be used for the school's taste-testing program with the remainder donated to organizations that help the less fortunate.

Leveled-Reading at James Hart. Support is provided to enable the school to purchase a variety of reading materials to meet the needs of students at different reading levels.

Summer Reading. The Willow School Reading Center will purchase books and other materials to develop reading kits for students to use over the summer.

Hart School Reading Lab. Support is provided to allow James Hart School to purchase computers and other materials to establish a Reading Lab for extra support to struggling students.

Get on the Ball. Kathy Thompson's 1st-grade class will pilot replacing classroom chairs with stability balls which have been shown to improve students' attention, concentration, posture, coordination and balance.

Welcome to Little Mexico. Hart Spanish teacher Mary Carvlin will purchase a variety of classroom materials to heighten student awareness of Spanish culture.

Project 64: 2nd Grade. Support is provided to expand Willow's popular Project 64, a method of teaching arts and fine motor skills, to the 2nd-grade.

Technology Improvements. A variety of technology equipment will be purchased to enhance learning in various ways:

- Video camera and other materials to support science education in Hart's Daily Living Skills classroom.
- The outdated version of HyperStudio software used at Churchill School will be replaced with the latest version.
- Two document cameras will be purchased for James Hart.
- "Quiz show" buzzers will be used to supplement the PBIS program and individual classroom activities at James Hart.
- Millennium School's current inventory of microphones will be replaced and supplemented to allow students to record narratives for multimedia presentations.
- In partnership with the Homewood PMA, a projector will be purchased for the Hart/Millennium band room.
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Foundation 153 is a volunteer, not-for-profit corporation that raises money to support inspired teaching and innovative learning projects throughout School District 153. Funding is distributed to staff and their projects via a competitive grant process.