

2004 - 2005
Mini-Grants Executive Summary

Neo-Impressionism: “En Plein Air Painting” (Grades 10-12)- Alison Blair; \$500

The Neo-Impressionism: “En Plein Air Painting” project is a creative means to expose high schools students to works of art by master Impressionists and to inspire students to work “in the field”. The program will focus on Connecticut Impressionists and the American Impressionist movement. Two field trips will be planned to introduce students to “En Plain Air” painting and one field trip to view an Impressionist collection in a Connecticut museum. Grant funds will be used to pay for the three trips, a variety of books and slides, and 30-40 panels for landscapes. Students will be evaluated through written and oral critiques, portfolio review, and a special exhibit of their artwork.

Technology in the Classroom (Grade 1)- Bruce Gale; \$500

The Technology in the Classroom project will provide alternatives to traditional classroom strategies for students to develop and master skills in all grade one curriculum areas. Students will learn to use the Internet to supplement daily classroom instruction. A “Kidspiration” page with links to appropriate websites will be developed. These websites will provide reinforcement for students who need additional help, as well as challenge advanced students. Grant money will be used to purchase an additional computer for the classroom. A pre-test will be administered in September and a post-test in June to evaluate the effectiveness of this project.

Developing a Comprehensive, Interactive Preschool Music Program (CEED & CCNS)- Marilyn Piecuch; \$500

The Developing A Comprehensive, Interactive Preschool Music Program project will be a collaboration with the Community School of the Arts within the College of Continuing Studies at the University of Connecticut. This project will enable the CEED/CCNS program to incorporate music technology and developmental research into their curriculum as an effective means to develop early academic skills. Three-year-olds will participate in eight, 45-minute sessions over the course of this program. Grant money will be used to pay for the UCONN Early Childhood Music Specialist who will provide two in-service training sessions for staff. Teachers will collect baseline data in September 2004 as a means to track individual progression of language skills, which will be shared with parents on a semi-yearly basis. Informal assessment data will be used as a means to drive instruction. A final comprehensive project will be developed for the purposes of video presentation.

Advanced Placement Training (Grades 9-12)- Wayne Schlegel; \$491

The Advanced Placement Training project will prepare students to take the two English AP exams, as well as the SAT I and portions of the SAT II. Participants will also develop critical reading and writing skills required in college. It is important for staff to get specific training in order to teach these difficult AP courses effectively. Unlike other AP disciplines, the College Entrance Examination Board does not suggest any particular subject matter or texts for English AP preparation, but only indicates general skill areas which will be tested. Teachers must create every aspect of these courses and whole new approaches to assessment must be developed. Grant funds will be used to send two teachers to separate four-day institutes in order to hone their skills. Student AP scores will serve as rough markers of the project's success.

The Growth of Urban Societies (Grade 8)- Al Scopino, Kenneth Goodale, Rebecca Hoffman; \$450

The Growth of Urban Societies project will cover the areas of social studies, geography, mathematics, and technology. The project will coincide with a unit on Urban America in November. Students will be split into groups and use the U.S. Census to record the history of a chosen city. Each group will assemble display boards which include city histories, location, charts and graphs depicting data, and urban cultural features and structures. Grant funds will be used to purchase the display boards and materials needed for construction. The money will also be used to pay for transportation to the UCONN library to research the U.S. Census information. To promote public relations with the greater school community, a public viewing of the display boards will be held for administration, staff, and parents.

Exploring American History Through Its Painters (Grade 8)- Al Scopino, Scott Rhoades; \$500

The Exploring American History through Its Painters project is an opportunity for students to recognize the importance of art in history. This project will bring together two disciplines, art and social studies. Students will visit the New Britain Museum of American Art, choose an American artist to research, and produce a painting similar to the artist's style. Students' work will then be displayed at an evening presentation where they will interpret their art for passers-by. Grant funds will be used to pay for admission and transportation to the museum, and for art supplies. Through this project, students will become familiar with the lives of American artists and the cultural impact of art in history.

Literary Arts Magazine- "Feed Your Head" (Grades 10-12)- Patricia Trask, Alison Blair; \$500

The Literary Arts Magazine- "Feed Your Head" project promotes interdisciplinary learning through the collaboration of a creative writing course and advanced art classes. Students will plan and create an annual magazine of select works of art to be distributed to students, staff, and the community. Students will gain experience in collaboration, learn the layout/design of a publication, and polish their writing and artwork skills. Grant funds will be used to purchase a desktop publishing program (Quark, Adobe Pagemaker, and/or Adobe Acrobat) and to cover the cost of printing the publication. This exciting endeavor will benefit Coventry Public Schools and the community as a whole.