

COVENTRY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

2006 - 2007

Mini-Grants Executive Summary

After School Academy (Grades 6-8) – Troy Hopkins; \$600

The After School Academy project is aimed at providing an extra safety net for our most academically at-risk students. Teacher teams and guidance will recommend students for this after-school program who are in danger of failing academic classes. Students will first be signed up for 4 weeks of the academy with possible extensions, if needed. They will work on school assignments as well as develop better work habits and study skills. Students will participate in a physical activity as a group, have a healthy snack, then organize and work on their assignments/study skills with their tutors. By meeting the students' needs for physical activity, socialization, and nutrition, students will be able to concentrate on their work and be more productive. As an added bonus, the high school student tutors will be able to count their time in the academy as community service. Grant money will be used to pay for a variety of instructional supplies and snacks for the participants.

Discovering Fine Art (Grade 4) – Kim Licata; \$600

The Discovering Fine Art project will provide an avenue for students to develop a greater appreciation for art. Each month the students will complete a mini-study of an artist and experience an art activity that focuses on that particular artist's style. By exposing students to a wide variety of artists and mediums, it will open their minds to others' interpretations and ideas. It will broaden their experiences to other cultures and allow them a different perspective at looking at all types of art. Independent thinking is encouraged while skills are enhanced through individual decisions. Grant funds will be used to purchase art supplies, biographies, and art technique books. Money will also be used to bring students to an art museum. It is hoped that students will be inspired to look at the world in a new way.

Enhancing Reading Fluency (Grade 2) – Nancy Plaster; \$600

In the real world, reading is essential to everyday activities. The Enhancing Reading Fluency project will help students develop better reading fluency and expression. Students will first be tested to pinpoint their individual reading level. From this information, each student will be placed on an appropriate fluency level program. CDs with metered stories that are recorded in two or three rates of speed will be used and the student will read along as it plays. As the student becomes more familiar with the material, he/she will proceed to the faster paced reading. Students will eventually be able to apply the developed fluency to authentic situations and help foster their artist modality. Grant funds will be used to pay for the various fluency materials. The increase in fluency, which includes expressiveness, will bridge between word recognition and comprehension.

Family Literacy Program (Grade K) – Terry Bitwinski; \$600

The Family Literacy Program hopes to enhance the gift of reading in the home as children practice the strategies introduced in the classroom. Books that initiate positive parent-child interactions and conversation will be selected for use. They will include books at the child's independent reading level, as well as books to be read by a parent. Families will be introduced to this program at a meeting at the beginning of the school year. Read-aloud books will be modeled with suggestions for parents to implement at home when reading to their children. Strategies for assisting the emergent reader will also be presented. This program will help to promote two-way communication between families and school and bridge classroom instruction with at-home literacy. Grant funds will be used to purchase leveled and read-aloud books, literacy journals, and book bags. Hopefully, this project will develop a love for reading as well as the comprehension skills that are needed to succeed in life.

Real World Math Applications Using Technology (Grades 9-12) – Allyson Cox, Michelle Powers; \$600

Student interest and motivation in their coursework is increased with technology use and real-world applications. The Real World Math Applications Using Technology project seeks to purchase four CBR units and one CBL unit from Texas Instruments to assist in the teaching of mathematics at the high school. The CBR and CBL data collection allows students to relate and compare measurements and see some real-world applications of the graphing techniques studied in several of their courses. Grant funds would be used to purchase these units, as well as an additional sound probe and a resource book. As an added bonus, Texas Instruments offers workshops free-of-charge for teachers to aide in the implementation of this technology. Students will learn to make connections between mathematics theory and their own lives through this project.

Science at Your Fingertips: Phase II (Grade 3) – Anne Burke; \$600

In order to ensure that all third graders are afforded the opportunities to participate in an inquiry-based science program, teachers need easy access to science kits that are fully developed with the appropriate materials. Science at Your Fingertips: Phase II will continue this very successful process. The goal for next year would focus on further exploration of Properties of Matter. Grant funds may be used to purchase books, multi-copies of non-fiction texts, or computer software. By changing the delivery of instruction and creating an environment that encourages students to think like a scientist, students should develop the necessary thinking skills needed to process information and perform at a higher level on the new state assessments slated to begin in the spring of 2008.

Textile Arts: Preparing for Today’s Job Market (Grades 10-12) – Kimberly Deep-McNamara; \$600

The Textile Arts: Preparing for Today’s Job Market project is an effort to collaborate Tech Ed and Textile Arts so that students are better prepared for fields related to Interior Design and state competency assessments for CTE courses. Students will learn to create professional quality rooms to scale which will be part of design boards that are used for job proposals in the field. They will also be able to design and create textile products for the home. Grant money will be used to bring in a guest instructor, for a field trip to RISD, and to purchase materials for student projects. This project will increase the career knowledge and skills of students that are necessary to meet the demands and succeed in the competitive, ever expanding area of Interior Design.

Triumphant and Democratic: The American Presidency (Grade 8) – Al Scopino, Kenneth Goodale, Rebecca Hoffman; \$600

Triumphant and Democratic: The American Presidency project will explore what is arguably the most powerful position in the world- the American Presidency. The project will include work in Social Studies, Language Arts, and Math. Working in groups of three, students will select one Chief Executive and examine the accomplishments and failures of their respective president. Determining what constitutes a successful presidency by working together will be a great exercise in decision-making. In-depth research, analysis, synthesis, compiling of data, and written work will benefit our students through high school and beyond. Students will create display boards which will be presented at a parent night entitled “Celebration of the Presidency.” Grant funds will be used to purchase the display boards and materials needed for construction and for a bus trip to the University of Hartford’s Museum of the American Presidency.