

For the 2004-2005 school year, we are pleased to present the Foundation's grants to support excellence in elementary education in Lake Forest.

*The Spirit's major initiative this year is the Sound-field Amplification System:
A new "state of the art" learning environment for all students in grades 1-8!*

This system allows a teacher's voice to be amplified in a classroom at a level just above all the other ambient noise, including environmental factors, heating and air conditioning units, and noises made by other children in the classroom or hallway. Every student hears the teacher at the same level no matter where they are seated in the classroom and no matter what direction the teacher is standing when he/she speaks. Use of sound-field amplification technology is the equivalent of placing every child in the first row of the classroom. The primary benefits are every student is impacted no matter what their level of ability or learning style. Listening is key to learning especially in the younger grades where recognition of speech and language is critical to the development of reading ability. Attention and class participation improves. Classroom management/control improves since teachers do not have to raise their voices in a forceful manner. Academic test scores improve.

Here are some highlights from other grants funded this year:

Fine Arts: \$42,529

- **Portable Light and Sound System**
This system will allow students to perform in various locations for Drama productions, Talent Show and other Fine Arts performances. Grades 5-8.
- **Fine Arts Enrichment Program**
Educational and culturally enriching programs featuring music and dance from a variety of countries. Grades 5-8.
- **Supplementing Art Curriculum**
This will provide supplemental age appropriate art resource materials for students to utilize during art projects and to enhance curriculum. Grades K-8.
- **Arrangeable Platforms**
These portable platforms allow for greater flexibility in the expansion and arrangement of performances in Chorus, Band, Orchestra, General Music, Drama, Talent Show and Assemblies. Grades K-8.
- **2nd Annual Midwest Young Artists Orchestra Concert**
Dr. Allan Dennis, Executive Director of the Midwest Young Artists will visit each school to introduce instruments. Students will then attend a performance spotlighting the instruments. Grade 3.

Language Arts: \$26,616

- **Visiting Author**
Continues annual visits by leading children's authors, this year presenting in-room writing workshops with well-known local authors. Grades K-8.
- **Browsing Boxes**
These bins are customized by grade level and contain a variety of level guided reading books in both fiction and non fiction.

They will provide consistency for all students and cross-curricular opportunities with Bridges Math, Social Studies and Science. Grades K-4.

Science: \$550.00

- **Critters in the Classroom**
An in-school presentation of live animals to all 6th grade students that supports and enhances their Animal unit in Science. Grade 6.

Social Studies: \$8235

- **Voyagers**
A live dramatization for all 2nd grades which will enhance their study of Canada in the Social Studies curriculum. Grade 2.
- **Playground Map**
A map of the USA painted on the playground at each elementary school. Provides for an "outdoor" classroom opportunity focusing on states and regions to measurements in math. Grades K-4.
- **Art Through Social Studies Enrichment Program**
This fine arts based program provides a hands on project for students. This program can be seen as a direct extension of Museum Express that students experienced in elementary school. Grades 5-8.

Technology: \$82,110

- **Sound-Field Amplification System**
Allows a teacher's voice to be amplified in the classroom above all other ambient noise. Please see front page for detailed description. Grades 1-8.
- **Photo Elements Software**
This software will help manipulate images easily to be used for home/school communications and integrated school projects. Grades 5-8.

Wellness: \$11,892

- **New Equipment and Upgrades**
Two new *customized wrestling mats* for grades 5-8; *Climbing Wall Obstacle Course, Maypole Crown System and Complete Four Court Volley System*. Grades K-4.

World Language: \$600

- **Latin Library Shelf**
A set of mythology books for each school in supplement the Latin curriculum. Grades 1-4.

Other: \$11,140

- *Walkie Talkies* for field trips; *Dare to Care* program on tolerance in conjunction with the B.E.S.T. program; *Love and Logic Books and Videos* for teacher and parent resources. Grades K-4.
- *Family Assistance Fund* for need based costs of remedial courses and field trips.
- Funds to support *LEAD "Parent University"*.
- *Comprehensive Strategies and Learning Tools for All Types of Learners*. This program will send a core team of teachers for training in teaching strategies and diagnostic tools that address all learning styles.