

Spirit Grants 2008-2009

Fine Arts

Improv Workshop

Second City is coming to DPM! On-site workshops and classroom training by Second City will allow staff at DPM to introduce improvisation instruction to the Drama curriculum. Improvisation helps to build vocabulary, sequencing and inference skills while improving communication and self confidence – key objectives of the Oral Language curriculum.

Orff Instrumentarium

All elementary schools will receive a full set of Orff percussion instruments. The Orff approach to music education encourages young children to participate in an active music experience. Students are fully engaged through singing, dancing, playing and improvising on pitched and unpitched instruments. A solid music foundation is built while having fun!

Slab Roller

Students at Everett School will bring their ceramics projects to life with the use of this new roller. Manipulating the clay from its raw form to a finished piece of ceramic art will immerse the children in the history, technique and creative potential of this art form.

Art Mosaic-Everett

Kindergartners through fourth graders at Everett School will create tiles to be combined into a large scale mosaic for permanent display at the school. The finished mosaic will reflect not only the individual personality of each student, but the broader spirit of Everett School.

Guest Composer 2009

This grant will assist District 67 in the funding of the Guest Composer for the 2009 Band Commission at DPM. The selected composer, John Mackey, will compose a piece of music expressly for DPM and work with our 7th and 8th grade Band students in fine tuning their performance of the piece. The entire DPM campus will attend a concert featuring this special musical collaboration.

“Sounds Good to Me” Band System

In conjunction with the Digital Recording equipment in place, this system will enhance the ability of students to critically listen to how their instrument should sound and compare how it sounds when they play it themselves. This quality feedback is crucial to mastery of an instrument.

Fine Arts Enrichment Program

This program will provide all grades with educational and culturally enriching Fine Arts performances. A wide array of diverse programming is planned for the coming year, thanks to the tremendous efforts of the APT Fine Arts Committee.

Clay Tile Mosaic-Cherokee

The entire 4th grade at Cherokee School will create a large-scale mosaic to be installed in a prominent location at the school. This project will reinforce concepts learned in class and expand knowledge of clay construction and application. The mosaic will be a “gift” that the students give to Cherokee as they move on to middle school.

Language Arts

Elaine Buckardt – Playaway with Audiobooks

The purchase of Playaway systems and audiobook titles at each elementary school will enable students across all reading levels to access both curricular and popular titles in an exciting format. Struggling and reluctant readers will improve literacy as they learn the joy of “reading” a good book!

Expanding Reading Fluency – Grades 1-2

Building on the success of last year's grant to Grades 3 and 4, this grant will extend the Read Naturally program, providing teachers with tools to help children build their reading fluency skills.

Visiting Author Program

Through promoting interaction with published authors, the Visiting Author program helps bring the creative writing process to life in a meaningful and accessible way for all students in Grades K-8. The Spirit thanks the APT Visiting Author Committee for their commitment to this program.

“My Sidewalks” Reading Intervention

“My Sidewalks” software focuses on improving comprehension for struggling readers, helping them succeed with the general education reading curriculum. This grant will benefit students in Grades 2-4 at each elementary school.

Criterion Writing License Pilot

5th and 6th grade students will benefit from this web-based instructional tool that will help them plan, write and revise essays, complementing teacher input and guidance. Motivating students to become better writers will improve performance in all curricular areas.

Rebecca Caudill Young Readers’ Book Award

This grant will fund the purchase of multiple sets of the 2009 Rebecca Caudill Young Reader’s Book Award selections in both written and audio formats. Students across Illinois are encouraged to read at least three of the 20 titles and have the opportunity to vote for their favorite author.

Readers’ Edge Software

This software is designed to improve strategies for academic reading proficiency through increasing both speed and comprehension. This research-based tool will benefit students in Grades 5-8.

Math

Interactive Math Support

Each elementary school will receive three sets of math materials that will promote interactive learning of basic concepts, such as math facts, as well as higher level thinking challenges. Puzzles, games and physical manipulatives will make learning math skills a fun and dynamic activity. These tools will benefit both Explore-Enrichment classes as well as General Education classes.

Science

Lucy Valentine - Class Performance System for Science Classrooms

The Class Performance System (CPS) is an interactive learning device that will be implemented in each science classroom for Grades 6-8. The CPS is a response pad that every student in the class will use to respond to teacher-generated questions. The use of CPS will encourage increased student engagement in the classroom and enable teachers to assess the effectiveness of instruction with real-time, immediate feedback.

Elawa Farm Project

This grant supports District 67's participation in a community-wide effort to create an environmental studies campus at Elawa Farm. The Elawa Farm Project will offer a special opportunity for our students to utilize both indoor and outdoor facilities in a unique environment that supports multi-disciplinary learning. District 67 is joining with Lake Forest High School District 115 and Lake Bluff School District 65 in funding the project.

Social Studies

Permanent Social Studies Museum Express

This grant will help fund a permanent home for the Social Studies Museum Express program at LFHS West Campus. This interactive learning space will allow for a more dynamic SSME for elementary students, expand opportunities for middle school students and engage resources from the K-16 educational community. The Spirit is happy to partner with District 67 to create this unique community resource.

“A Day in the Life of Ancient Rome”

Fifth graders at DPM will time travel to Ancient Rome as part of their study of ancient civilizations. Through exploring The Forum, building an arch and, perhaps, meeting Julius Caesar, the students will experience the culture and history of ancient Rome in a dynamic and sensory manner.

6th Grade Culture Fairs

The culture fairs integrate social studies with fine arts, science, mathematics, language arts and world language to create a holistic experience for the students. The study of Southwest Asia, Africa and Southeast Asia become much more meaningful through these interactive programs.

Technology

Digital Media System

The addition of an interactive smartboard to existing classroom technology will be piloted this year in a 6th grade Math classroom. The system will allow children to virtually interact with the material they are learning, increasing focus and interest.

Portable Video Recording Studio

This grant will provide a portable video recording studio to each elementary school. From “morning announcements” to recording curriculum-based presentations, this technology will allow students to demonstrate their Oral Language skills in an exciting and engaging format.

DSS Technology Support

The Foundation is pleased to partner with the District and the LF/LB LDA in improving access to technology for students who require extra support to become independent learners. This grant will help to fund the purchase of additional hardware for the DSS Department at both DPM campuses.

Wellness

Norm Erickson –High Jump Mats & Standards

In the spirit of Norm Erickson’s commitment to Athletics, the Foundation is pleased to award this grant that will enable the District to purchase high jump mats and standards to be used for after-school Track & Field programs as well as related Wellness activities.

Sportwall Interactive Fitness System – Everett School

Sportwall provides more than one hundred ways to engage children in fitness, agility and team-building activities. This equipment can also be used to meet occupational therapy goals and assist in sensory integration exercises for students who benefit from these programs.

Stretch & Focus Mats and Relaxation Bell

The successful pilot of the program at DPM has educated students on the benefits of stretching and relaxation exercises in relation to overall wellness. This grant will fund equipment to fully implement the program.

World Language

Flamenco Workshop

This interactive presentation and performance by Ensemble Espanol will enrich the new Andalusian cultural unit for all 5th and 6th grade Spanish students.

Mandarin Chinese Support Materials

This grant will fund materials that will supplement the new Mandarin Chinese curriculum offered in Grades 4 through 8. Games, music, video and other tools will help to develop communication skills and cultural understanding.

Miscellaneous

Occupational Therapy Toolbox

Occupational therapy tools will assist 1st graders at Cherokee and Sheridan Schools with strengthening fine motor skills in order to improve performance in curricular projects.

Kreischer Kids' Fund – Family Assistance Program

The Foundation has granted funds as in years past to support student activities where family funding is not possible. The fund is administered by District 67 personnel.

LEAD Parent University – 2009

This grant will provide LEAD with a contribution to help underwrite the cost of speakers for Parent University. We join other organizations and schools in our community in support of this program.

Emotional Wellness Initiative – Bullying Prevention Program

The Spirit is happy to support the District in their effort to bring a comprehensive bullying education program to all students and teachers, Grades K-8. This curriculum will provide the necessary tools for both staff and students to create a positive environment for learning.

“Can You See It Now” Large Floor Screen

The addition of a large floor screen and projector will make whole-school assemblies and presentations enjoyable for all students at DPM. Now everyone will be able to see the action!

Early Literacy for Math & Language Arts

This program, to be implemented in Grades K-1 at Sheridan School, will provide a variety of resources to pre-teach skills to students in a resource setting in the areas of Reading Language Arts and Math.