



The Iowa City Community School District Foundation is excited to announce the 2010 EXCELLENCE FUND GRANTS

Over \$53,000 was allocated for Excellence Fund grants for the 2010-2011 school year.

Excellence Fund grants are available each year to district teachers and coordinators to fund programs and projects that would otherwise not be possible. The Foundation's goal to *reach every student, every year* through these special learning opportunities is realized by private contributions from local businesses and individuals.

Over \$300,000 was spent on designated programs for the Iowa City Community School District during the 2009-2010 school year.

For more information visit: www.iccsdfoundation.org

2010 Excellence Fund Grants

Elementary Visiting Author Program

Children's illustrator and author Daniel San Souci will visit all 1st and 2nd graders in the fall of 2010. Meeting and interacting with a 'real' author/illustrator is exciting for any reader and this encourages and promotes reading and writing for our younger students.

School of the Wild Tuition Assistance

Upper elementary students from each school attend a multiple-day outdoor enrichment activity at MacBride Nature Center. This unique program brings an awareness of the wildlife and natural ecosystems in our area. Students develop an appreciation for the natural world and a caretaker attitude with respect to the earth.

Symphony Goes to School

All 3rd and 4th grade students will be treated to a special youth concert performed by Orchestra Iowa. Students travel by bus to City High Opstad Auditorium to listen to a professional performance in a venue specially designed for concerts. Curricular connections to the program are made through the elementary music classes.

Early Childhood Science Discovery Kits

Early childhood Pre-K classrooms will develop thirteen themed Science Discovery Kits that align with the science component of the ICCSD curriculum. The kits will offer opportunities for these district supported pre-school classrooms to explore, discover, and grow.

Garner Elementary Literacy Library

Leveled reading books for kindergarten through second grade students will start a literacy library at the new Buford Garner Elementary School. This collection of books covers many different reading levels and can already be found in other elementary buildings across the district. Easy access to books provides young students with many opportunities to practice their reading skills in school and at home.

Front



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APPLE Grants

(Annually Providing a Positive Learning Environment) Six schools with a 50% or greater free and reduced lunch eligible student population will each receive \$1,000. These funds are used to supplement projects normally supported through PTO/PTA/PSTO fundraising efforts. Each building will determine how to use these funds depending on the needs of their students.

Maia Quartet Performances

The Maia Quartet will bring professional string performances to every 5th and 6th grader in the district. The "*Democracy in Music - The String Quartet*" program will focus on how the quartet functions as a democracy, without an official leader. The program complements the district-wide early democracy curriculum for this age group.

Digital Cameras

City High Art Department will purchase twelve SLR digital cameras and accessories to make a long awaited conversion from traditional darkroom photography to digital photography during the 2010-2011 school year. This will allow students to experience updated technology and software critical to learning about photography and its' use in today's world.

Historical Anthologies

Social Studies and Language Arts departments at North Central Junior High will work together to enhance students understanding of early American History issues by broadening readings to include short stories, poetry, biographies and primary documents in a special anthology. Initial funding for these books will provide the base for building this collection in the future.

Iowa Teen Award Books

Books nominated for the 2010-2011 Iowa Teen Award will be purchased for Southeast Junior High School. Students will be encouraged to read as many nominees as possible and take part in the school and state-wide voting process to determine the title to receive this award. These high interest novels generate excitement about reading throughout the school.

iPods in Special Education

iPods will be used as an assistive technology device for older students with disabilities. There are a wide variety of educational uses that will help these students connect and interact through reading, writing, math, music, art and communication applications.

Concussion Testing Equipment

Pre and post impact concussion testing will be possible for all secondary students involved in contact sports injuries. This pilot program will allow the athletic staff, trainers and school nurses to establish safer baselines for determining the readiness of injured students to return to practice.

World Language Multimedia Equipment

The third and final phase of a district-wide technology update in the secondary schools will allow students in all world language classes to benefit from high quality video and sound equipment. This upgrade will be used for visual and listening activities in the classroom to enhance language learning opportunities.

Family and Consumer Science Technology Update

Students in the West High Family and Consumer Science classes will be given the advantage of improved visual learning opportunities. Video and power point presentations are essential tools for learning and student engagement, especially in studying food preparation. This equipment will allow daily access to this important learning experience.

Inside