

**Excellence in Education Foundation  
Spring 2009 Grants**

**Patti Murphy**

**Jefferson Elementary School**

**Title of Proposal: Being Smart in the Library**

**Grant Award: \$1,987.00**

Putting a Smartboard in the library at Jefferson Elementary School will allow all Jefferson students exposure and interaction with the Smartboard at least once a week during their assigned library times. In addition, students who receive reading and math interventions after school would have additional access. During library instruction students would use the Smartboard in areas of reading, language arts, and information and content literacy. Student engagement will be high because of the interactive nature of the lessons. Lessons can be saved for further use and review and can be shared collaboratively with classroom teachers.

**Tyler J. Hanner**

**Charleston High School**

**Title of Proposal: Calculators for Those in Need**

**Grant Award: \$565.46**

“Calculators for Those in Need” is just as it sounds. In order to succeed and compete with other students on the Prairie State Achievement Exam (PSAE), as part of our AYP, all of our juniors need to have a calculator to use. Some of our juniors at Charleston High School either cannot afford a calculator nor do they have one to borrow. This project looks to provide two things: 1) any junior that needs a calculator to use on the PSAE will have one. 2) These calculators can be distributed to math teachers for use by ALL CHS students who do not have a calculator. The calculators that would be purchased would be TI-30Xa scientific calculators made by Texas instruments.

**Gene Nance, Jennifer Dryden**

**Charleston Middle School**

**Title of Proposal: Hands-on Learning  
With Laminated Desk Maps**

**Grant Award: \$1026.87**

Nystrom provides a hands-on history program that allows students to learn geography skills at the same time. Students interact with their laminated desk maps by following guided instruction worksheets that walk them through an activity step-by-step that is historically based but rich in geography. We can then use the Nystrom website and classroom smart board to expand learning beyond the classroom.

**Brenda Foster, Julie Viertel, Angela Ashley,  
Michelle Dow, Mark Snider and Karen Murphy**

**Charleston Middle School**

**Title of Proposal: Novel Notions**

**Grant Award: \$1975.29**

This project is designed to foster a love of reading in middle school students and help them share this passion with parents or community members. Our goal is to offer a book each month and allow the students to read it at their leisure. Then, at the end of the month they will gather during lunch time to discuss this book in a book club setting. Teachers and the librarian will join them as well and become active participants in the book group. Two times a year, we would like to do a larger version of this project where we meet in the evening and try and generate participation with community members on a larger scale.

**Tim McCollum**

**Charleston Middle School**

**Title of Proposal: The Heat is On: Student  
Designed Long-term Temperature Investigations**

**Grant Award: \$1964.65**

The purpose of this project is to engage middle school science students in student-designed, long-term temperature investigations. This will be accomplished through the use of thermochrons – dime-size measuring devices developed by NASA and capable of automatically recording over 2,000 ambient temperature readings over a period of up to one year. Each student would be issued one thermochron for use in conducting an investigation. Upon the completion of the data collecting period, the thermochrons would be returned to the classroom, and the collected data would be transferred to computers. The students would then graph the data and share the results and findings of their investigations with their teachers and classmates by means of SmartBoard presentations.

**Jennifer Thompson**

**Charleston High School**

**Title of Proposal: Vamos a leer!**

**Grant Award: \$787.05**

I would like to implement a Spanish-department-wide program of reading outside of our textbook. Scholastic Magazine has three levels of classroom magazines in Spanish that feature teen-interest articles and features that build reading, grammar, and vocabulary skills. This grant would enable me to order a class set of each level that can be shared among the three Spanish classrooms and across the four levels of Spanish.

**Kim Southworth**

**Charleston Middle School**

**Title of Proposal: SMART for Kids**

**Grant Award: \$2,000.00**

The SMART for Kids proposal is one that will continue the use of technology that has been established in our elementary grade classrooms. It will allow seventh grade science students to utilize current instruction best practice standards by giving them the tools to learn, problem solve and present information from science team to science team and with students around the world.

**Excellence in Education Foundation  
2009 Large Grant**

**Lou Conwell, Suzie Bosler, Alyson Davis,  
Gary Francis, Robin Horn, Kathy Miller,  
Connie Spaniol, Jenny White**

**Carl Sandburg Elementary**

**Title of Proposal: Mega-Projects with Mini-Computers Grant Award: \$10,000.00**

The project goal for Mega-Projects with Mini-Computers is to provide mini-computers to third grade students for the purpose of guided web-based research and word processing. Eight third-grade classrooms would work collaboratively to plan projects for students that are inquiry-based. A rotation schedule would be created to insure equal access for all third graders. It is difficult to schedule additional computer time at Carl Sandburg due to the heavy use of the library lab. Mini-computers would be powerful enough to provide access to the web for research, but allow the mobility necessary for classroom sharing. This grant will allow Charleston third graders to keep pace technologically with students in other area schools.