

**Excellence in Education Foundation  
Spring 2011 Grants**

**Dawn Drake**

**Charleston High School**

**Title of Proposal: Flipping for Non-Fiction**

**Grant Award: \$ 652.92**

High school students are extremely sociable and yearn for relevance. Tapping into their curiosity and desire to use 21<sup>st</sup> century learning tools, any opportunity I have provided them to demonstrate and hone their creative thinking skills has been met with great enthusiasm. Students want to tell stories, to ask important questions, and attempt to solve real world problems. Today, in the age of google, iphones, kindles, facebook, twitter, and youtube, there are so many new ways for students to connect to their learning environments. I am proposing implementing a documentary project with the use of Flip video cameras that would engage students in research, writing, and technology during our unit on non-fiction. I piloted this project with my honors class this year and they came up with some excellent documentary proposals including touring the Coles County Animal Shelter, following a doctor during his daily routine at SBLHC; another group interviewed students on their thoughts on such topics as school success, clothing labels, and gagglenet. One group explored the history of Thanksgiving and filmed family members in the kitchen preparing various Thanksgiving recipes.

**Kim Sherwood, Bonnie Zavoral**

**Charleston Middle School**

**Title of Proposal: Flip Cameras for Science**

**Grant Award: \$ 1,500.00**

Charleston Middle School students will use Flip cameras to document in-class and out-of-class activities in order to make accurate observations and reflections. A document camera will also be part of this project to better show science students specimens/examples used in the classroom.

**Laura St. Gemme**

**Charleston Middle School**

**Title of Proposal: CMS News—Back on the Air!**

**Grant Award: \$ 1,500.00**

CMS news used to exist here at CMS—but our equipment died. We are in dire need of equipment to get the CMS News back and running. It will only take new equipment. We have the student desire and the volunteer teacher/supervisors. This was an extracurricular activity that involved many interested 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders. Those not in front of the camera as announcers, were those behind the camera as script writers, camera-people and those getting the stories and announcements. This CMS News team should live on! CMS news could continue with your help and this grant. CMS News could again be a way to inform the CMS family about daily events, what is happening at our school and to announce what will be happening in the days to come. We used to stream news feed into every classroom and also were a link to the CMS website and streamed to the World Wide Web. That way even people across the globe knew what was going on here at Charleston Middle School. It would be great to continue this project for years to come. This would be our first news story if it became a reality!

**Excellence in Education Foundation**

**2011 Large Grants**

**Amy Wood**

**Carl Sandburg Elementary**

**Title of Proposal: Improving Math Skills  
With TouchMath**

**Grant Award: \$ 3,410.00**

According to leading educational psychologists, all children transition from the concrete to pictorial and finally the abstract stage of learning at their own pace. While the lengths of these developmental periods vary by individual, this development takes an even longer time for a student with special needs. These students require curriculum and instruction that provide a multi-sensory approach while targeting all ability levels and learning styles. In order to increase student understanding of math concepts, it is necessary to have the appropriate curriculum. TouchMath is a multi-sensory program that utilizes pictures and touchpoints to teach students to associate numerals with real values, thus presenting abstract concepts in a more concrete manner.

**Dawn Kuhns, Elda Ueleke**

**Mark Twain Elementary**

**Title of Proposal: Wii Play to Learn, Part 2**

**Grant Award: \$ 2,500.00**

This application was submitted last year requesting the maximum total of \$5000.00 and was funded for one-half the requested amount. Those monies were used to equip 9 classrooms with Wii consoles. A very small portion of the grant money was used to acquire a very small games library. We are asking for another portion of money to complete the project—equipping the remainder of the classrooms and expanding our resource library for both learning centers and indoor recess options for gross motor activity. The units which were installed from last year's grant have been very well received by the children and the staff are equally happy with all the positive benefits. Indoor recesses continue to be challenging, but with the Wiis, we have been able to provide safe and enjoyable gross motor activities within the tight confines of the classrooms. Several games have been found to be useful in learning centers and at transition times.

**Cynthia Hagar**

**Carl Sandburg Elementary**

**Title of Proposal: Multi-Sensory Room**

**Grant Award: \$2,500.00**

The genesis of this project began last fall when we noticed several students in the hallway during an all school presentation which was over stimulating for them. Our principal allowed us to repurpose a portion of a classroom currently used for storage as a sensory room. This provided our students with a space for large motor movements and quiet times. Staff members donated several items and helped organize the room. It has been used frequently, with students spending time in it before the first bell rings in the morning, during some indoor recesses, for OT and PT services, and during stressful periods throughout the day. While this was a good start the room lacks many items, most of which are too costly for the school to absorb. We propose to establish a true Multi-Sensory Room to address a variety of issues that affect our special needs students at Carl Sandburg. This room would provide a controlled environment outside of the classroom where our overactive, distressed students can calm themselves and our passive, inactive students can become more alert and focused. The positive benefits of exposure to the Multi-Sensory Room would include decreased negative behaviors and improved focus in the classroom setting.

**Pam Evans**

**Jefferson Elementary**

**Title of Proposal: SMART Technology**

**Grant Award: \$ 2894.00**

SMART Response XE will help to keep students interested, involved and participating in lessons. It will give them a way to respond individually to questions. Students can answer questions with their clickers and receive feedback instantly once they have answered the question. Class results can be shown, so that students can compare and learn from each other's answers.

SMART Response XE enables the teacher to give assessments to gauge students' comprehension. It will also save paper by allowing them to take the test directly through the handheld device. These assessments can be prepared in advance or done during a lesson. A variety of questions can be used: true or false, multiple choice and open-ended. When students respond, their answers are automatically summarized on a SMART Notebook page. The teacher can then analyze the results and plan for future learning. This also saves time in regard to grading papers.

This will allow students with IEPs, difficulty with handwriting or other disabilities to be able to type. It will be easier for students to express themselves. Multiple assessments can be given for a variety of student abilities.

The Teacher Tools also allow the teacher to create class lists, manage and view student assessments in one location. There is a built-in grade book to record test scores, track performance, evaluate trends, and create reports.

This will allow teachers to further expand the use of their SMART boards.