

DECEMBER 2010
VAN BUREN SCHOOL DISTRICT
EDUCATION FOUNDATION
PRIZE PATROL

Investigations for the Smart Board

Cara McGhee

\$863.88

Central Middle School

Math Investigations Curriculum has technology available as ten-minute math and interactive games to support daily learning in both whole class and small group instruction. This inquiry based program will be used on installed Smart Boards and will utilize activities and games deepening understanding, develop concepts and provides skill practice using dynamic visual representation addressing both the visual and kinesthetic Central Middle School learner.

Their Voices are Heard

Stacey Moore

\$898.58

Central Middle School

Research tells us we must have choice in what we read in order to grow as readers; so of course it must be what we want to read. Central Middle School's student committee expressed one big want was sports books, both fiction and nonfiction. This grant will provide new titles for all literacy classroom libraries with books about soccer, football, baseball and basketball.

Searching for the Next Good Book

Kara Copher, Dorinda Stewart, Renee Myers

\$1,500.00

Central Middle School

After analyzing data from reading assessments, Central Middle School has come to the realization that there is a need for more titles that will entice struggling readers. Lower level readers go through many books per week; therefore they need lots of titles. This grant will fund a variety of titles covering realistic fiction, mystery, historical fiction, culture diversity, and books that contain great characters on the lower reading levels.

It Used to be a Bank Bag, but now it's a BOOK BAG!

Stacey Moore, Stephanie Watkins

\$1,370.20

Central Middle School

Central Middle School will purchase large, high-quality bags with the school logo. They will be large enough to hold several books, they will zip closed, and they will protect the valuable books. The book bags will also allow some privacy for students. Struggling readers often have books that don't look like other students books. Because they don't want others to know what they are reading, struggling readers will either carry around a book that is too difficult or refuse to take home a book to read. If everyone has a book bag, everyone's bag looks the same, and no one but the reader and the teacher knows what is inside.

Super Cool Scientist

Dana Clark, Vivian Owen

\$800.00

Central Middle School

Super heroes are popular among students and what better way to learn about cells, energy, states of matter than with a cool character in a graphic novel. Graphic novels using the content of science are making science cool and accessible. This grant will fund Central Middle School's graphic classroom collections which will elevate the engagement in both science and reading.

Graphic Spin

Janice White

\$579.14

Central Middle School

Sets of many titles of best known fairy tales and tall tales retold in a graphic novel will be placed in Central Middle School's bookroom. Students will fall in love with some of the most adored fairy tales that will attract even the most reluctant readers by having graphic novel titles available for reading.

Bittersweet

Khay Faught

\$989.47

Central Middle School

Central Middle School added a new fifth grade classroom and with it comes the challenge of setting up a classroom library. Starting from scratch, there is a need for all resources to have a comparable book selection choice as other classrooms. This grant will help build a classroom library filled with non-fiction and historical fiction of all levels for students in this new classroom to have access.

Hands-on Equations

Heather Dillard, Toby Brasher, David Harrison, Danna Fudge

\$1,190.00

Butterfield Junior High School

Butterfield math students may work in groups or pairs as they use Hands-on Equations. Hands-on Equations is a set of manipulatives that allow students to create equations using pawns as variables and dice to represent numbers. Using a balance scale students create and solve their equations. Through the use of concrete models, students can develop an understanding of algebra and move to more abstract thinking.

Computing for the Future!

Kim Powers, Carrie Ball, Mychel Medina, Michael McDonald

\$1,484.10

Butterfield Junior High School

A set of netbook computers will be purchased and rotated among the Butterfield math classrooms to allow students to access online websites which provide interactive activities. Students can take online assessments that provide immediate feedback and allow teachers to determine areas of needed reinforcement. Students can work in collaborative groups, pairs, or take turns for individual access.

Developing Fitness Skills for Life

Becky Goerig, Michael Kinney, Tim Landers, Brandy Mosby

\$1,000.00

Butterfield Junior High School

As students grow and develop, they form habits that will stay with them throughout their lives. The objective of physical education is to ensure that students get physically fit as well as learn ways to maintain a healthy lifestyle beyond their youth. Through the development of skills such as learning to play tennis, volleyball, golf, badminton, basketball, and bowling, Butterfield Junior High students will learn to enjoy being physically active. Learning recreational sports will help students develop social skills and allow them opportunities to interact with others in a positive way.

“I” Hear, “I” Listen, “I” Move, “I” Learn!

Jennifer Perry

\$367.29

Parkview Elementary School

Music is a learning tool that helps students not just learn for a moment but allows them to store that learning with a beat and rhythm. A Parkview kindergarten class will have a docking station and iPod that will allow music to be brought up quickly that goes with the lesson. This will help students become more effective learners.

The Farmer’s Market

Shasta Reichard, Renee Henson, Nancy Scharbor, Lori Miller, Jenny Lincks,

Georgia Faldon

\$800.00

Parkview Elementary School

The purpose of this project is to create a Farmer’s Market. It will allow hands on experiences for children by preparing, planting and maintaining a spring garden. The vegetables will be harvested, marketed and sold in a Farmer’s Market. The children will gain an understanding of how things grow, be able to taste fresh vegetables they grew themselves, and then gain knowledge and understanding of how commerce works.

The Sixty-Second Recap

Michelle Hefner, Amy Myers

\$2,699.00

Van Buren High School

Van Buren High School 11th grade students will read independently and present a 60-second “recap” in the form of video, audio, song or poem to classmates, demonstrating their evaluation of a literary work or a literary element within a work. The video will then be used to generate other students’ interest in the work, thereby encouraging others to read the book.

Caving ‘Cause We Conquered

Dusti Hurst, Lance Thompson, Melissa Warnock, Gail Saifi, Charlotte Douglas

\$2,807.80

Van Buren High School

This grant will fund a field trip to Cosmic Caverns in Berryville, Arkansas. “Caving ‘Cause We Conquered” will serve two purposes: it will reward this year’s juniors who passed the end-of-course (EOC) biology exam last year; and it will give an incentive to sophomores who will take the test this year. The excursion to Cosmic Caverns will enrich the students’ lives by giving them the opportunity to do something that they have never experienced.

Smart Board Technology: The Tools for Learning

Laura Burnett, Jennifer Broniste

\$2,000.00

Coleman Junior High School

A Smart Board is an interactive learning tool used to engage participants in activities and lessons. Each student is actively and physically engaged in the activities which usually incorporates collaboration. By using a Smart Board, students will connect to the lesson in a more meaningful way, where they may participate hands-on.

Kindling a Fire for Reading!

Lisa Miller, Amy Brady, Sherrie Cormack

\$1,500.00

Coleman Junior High School

Coleman Junior High School’s goal is to integrate technology and literacy. Through the use of Amazon Kindle E-Readers, reluctant students who have not been voracious readers will be engaged. A wide variety of text is available to download on Kindles. Many classic texts are available for no charge. Current texts are available for download on six Kindle E-Readers for the cost of one book. This grant will fund Amazon Kindle E-Readers and book downloads.

Now I Know My ABC's

Amber Bryant, Sacha Fincher, Linda Hagen

\$625.00

Coleman Junior High School

Coleman Junior High students will naturally become more involved and feel more ownership over their learning if they are involved in the direction of the teaching. By creating ABC books that focus on student selected themes or topics, Coleman's reading teachers will subtly engage their students into learning. Although students will select their topics, there is a lot of vocabulary that must be brainstormed, compiled, weeded through, selected, and illustrated. Students will be exposed to new vocabulary and will have to think creatively to find ways to present their words.

The Night of the Living Museum Enhanced

Mary M. Wilmot

\$300.00

Northridge Middle School

The Night of the Living Museum is an annual event which enables students to dress as characters from American history and recite interesting information about the character he or she portrays. This program was funded by a previous Education Foundation grant.

Funding of this grant, The Night of the Living Museum Enhanced, will repair existing costumes and add new ones. This successful program will enhance the costumes so it can retain its appeal and reputation of being a first-class presentation.

All is Fair in Our Science Fair

Jeff Dean, Amy Wesson

\$1,278.00

Northridge Middle School

Traditional Science Fairs can have problems with judging consistency and can require too much man power. They also compare projects to projects, which can result in discouraged students and angry parents. The focus of a Standards-Based Science Fair is to keep projects content and student-centered and less about how appealing the projects are to a judge. There will be many legitimate winners and all students will get to present projects and get personal, specific feedback.

Oral Reading IS Real Reading–Promoting Fluency in Middle School

Jeanie Perkins, Debbie Wintory

\$1,560.00

Northridge Middle School

This grant will fund Leveled Reader Theatre books, videos of professional speakers and storytellers, poetry books, and reproducible read aloud plays to help Northridge Middle School language arts students become more fluent readers. Fluency is the ability to read aloud expressively and with comprehension and is a necessary 21st century career skill from interviews to oral presentations from marketing to public speaking. Through frequent modeling and practice, students will increase fluency rate, accuracy and expression.

See It, Touch It, Learn It

Kelly Henson

\$500.00

Rena Elementary School

This interactive software is a step-by-step math program that uses simple activities and open-ended practice opportunities to reinforce math concepts. It is easy to customize the activities and lessons to the strengths/needs of every student. For Rena Elementary students who learn best when moving, this hands-on information will be easier to learn and retain. This TouchMath software will be used on the school's new SMART Boards.

Kidspiration

Kendra Fanning

\$889.00

Rena Elementary School

Kidspiration is a unique software program that develops thinking, literacy and mathematic skills in children using proven visual learning principles. It is aligned with Arkansas State Standards and provides lesson plans for teachers in literacy, math, science and social studies. This software can be utilized for whole group instruction or small group re-teaching by Rena's classroom teachers, mentors and volunteers.

“Recess”cite our School to Exercise

Angie Blake, Landi Brown, Erin Perryman, Jennifer Deffenbaugh,
Stephanie Little, Dawn Nichols

\$2,000.00

Rena Elementary School

For children to receive a level of good health, studies recommend they participate in physical activity 60 minutes or more a day. The regular physical education class does not provide adequate time to achieve this recommendation. Therefore, it is necessary to provide physical activity to children during recess and before and after school. Rena Elementary students will actively participate in an appealing exercise involving different activities using the gaming equipment for indoor and outdoor activities. The variety of game equipment will allow them to choose an active lifestyle instead of a sedentary one which eventually may result in overweight adults.