

The Washington Post Company Educational Foundation

Grants in Education & Grants in the Arts 2007-2008

Project Summaries

GRANTS IN EDUCATION

MAUS: More than a Comic Strip

Anacostia Senior High School
1601 16th Street, SE, Washington, DC 20020
District of Columbia
Submitted by: Ms. Carol Ann North

The project will engage reluctant readers in the details of a most horrifying period of civilization – The Holocaust in Nazi Germany - using animated characters, students tell of the trauma in the lives of the survivors.

The Brightwood Gazette

Brightwood Elementary School
1300 Nicholson Street, NW, Washington, DC 20011
District of Columbia
Submitted by: Ms. Laura Hassan

Students will experience first-hand, the work of compiling a paper, improving writing and editing skills and begin learning the values for respect, responsibility and hard work.

Kindergarten Family Story Night

Eugene A. Clark Elementary School
4501 Kansas Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20011
District of Columbia
Submitted by: Ms. Orly Friedman

KG Family Night is a once-a-month event that reinforces the importance of families taking the time to read aloud to children. KG families learn best practices for reading to children and for the purpose of building the KG class community through a "reading expert" and time for families to sit down and read with their children.

CHILL - Choose to be In the Library at Lunchtime

Francis Junior High School
2425 N Street, NW, Washington, DC 20037
District of Columbia
Submitted by: Ms. Angelina Dialel, Ms. Patty Donegan, Ms. Veronika Kasalova, Ms. Lynn Kauffman, and Ms. Ashley Miller

The project offers games, crafts, puzzles and teen oriented reading materials to redirect students recreational habits to a more educational orientation through a selection of appealing yet mind building activities.

Storytime, Cuddletime

Harriet Tubman Elementary School
13th and Kenyon Sts., NW, Washington, DC 20010
District of Columbia
Submitted by: Ms. Salomea Swain

Big books, board books and cuddly stuffed animals will be purchased to help emergent literacy students develop and nurture their reading skills.

Moten Center Mavericks Literary Magazine

Moten Elementary School
1565 Morris Road, SE, Washington, DC 20020
District of Columbia
Submitted by: Ms. Jennifer McNulty and Ms. Elaina Dalton

Each student at Moten submits a personal page of poetry with artwork to create the 2nd annual literary magazine, "The Maverick."

The Journeys Project

Moten Elementary School
1565 Morris Road, Washington, DC 20020
District of Columbia
Submitted by: Ms. Jennifer Geoffroy

Field trips to various historical sites in the Greater Washington DC area will be undertaken to augment lessons focusing on 5th grade African American history.

Se Habla Espanol

Noyes Elementary School
2725 10th Street, NE, Washington, DC 20017
District of Columbia
Submitted by: Ms. Nikki Ridley

The program will teach basic Spanish words to 2nd graders who will create and publish a Spanish-English dictionary and record a listening center tape to accompany it.

Extension of Internet Math Games Project

Phoebe Hearst Elementary School
3950 37th Street, NW, Washington, DC 20008
District of Columbia
Submitted by: Mr. William Rope

Second and third grade students will continue doing on-line math games after a significant improvement in their math scores of up to 20% was documented.

Harlem: A Vintage of Van Der Zee

Spingarn Senior High School
2500 Benning Road, NE, Washington, DC 20002
District of Columbia
Submitted by: Ms. Vera Rosier

Students are introduced to a motivational approach in the development of critical thinking and writing proficiency through James Van Der Zee's photography of Harlem

Critical Literacy Circle

Thomson Elementary School
1200 L Street, NW, Washington, DC 20005
District of Columbia
Submitted by: Ms. Yen Wharen

Urban and gifted students in first thru to grade will read and analyze advanced and culturally diverse fiction and non-fiction literature through intensive intervention using modified and explicit instructions.

All About Wetlands: Making Third Grade Life Science Come to Life

Thomson Elementary School
1200 L Street, NW, Washington, DC 20005
District of Columbia
Submitted by: Ms. Alanna Blecha and Ms. Sonal Sheth

Making 3rd grade Life Science come to Life will include 3 field trips (fall, winter and spring/summer) to Huntley Meadows, a natural wetlands environment in addition to classroom instructions on life cycles of plants and animals.

Family Science Night: Hand-on Science for the Elementary Grades

Thomson Elementary School
1200 L Street, NW, Washington, DC 20005
District of Columbia
Submitted by: Ms. Crystal Overstreet and Ms. Mary Fran Miklitsch

Hands on science night for students and their respective families to reinforce its fun and practical aspects and provide parents with information they need to help their children with science fair projects.

I Love to Read/ Amo Leer

Tyler Elementary School
1001 G Street, SE, Washington, DC 20003
District of Columbia
Submitted by: Ms. Inmaculada Yrureta and Ms. Dina Padrino

This project is part of a larger initiative to expand Spanish Immersion classes, curricula and a broad range of other school literacy endeavors.

Family Math Night

Tracey's Elementary School
5235 Solomon's Island Road, Lothian, MD 20711
Anne Arundel County
Submitted by: Ms. Ann Pleisse and Ms. Leslie Day

K-5 students meet with teachers and parents in a math-oriented games night to participate and have fun in hands-on activities that will reinforce participation and learning.

The Pizza Pi Partnership

Northern Middle School
2954 Chaneyville Road, Owings, MD 20736
Calvert County
Submitted by: Mrs. Susie Agnolutto and Mrs. Judy Haines

Four evening sessions with free pizza dinner for 25 "at-risk" students and their parents/guardians to learn 12 critical skills necessary for algebra success.

Let's Read and Write Together

Matula Elementary School
6025 Radio Station Road, La Plata, MD 20646
Charles County
Submitted by: Ms. Kathleen Hettel

Books and journals will be purchased and used by identified "at-risk" students, assisted by their parents /guardians, in this reading-writing scheme. Participating students will be awarded a summer reading book at the end of the program.

Meeting the Literacy Needs of Students with Autism

Governor Thomas Johnson Middle School
1799 Schifferstadt Boulevard, Frederick, MD 21701
Frederick County
Submitted by: Ms. Rebecca Lawrence

Autistic students will be provided specialized books containing symbols to allow them to participate in reading activities with their non-autistic classmates.

It's a Dog's Life

Linganore High School
12013 Old Annapolis Road, Frederick, MD 21701
Frederick County
Submitted by: Ms. Pat Beachy

A CPR dog will be use to train students in Pre-Vet/Small Animal Care pilot classes on how to perform canine CPR and Pet Emergency First Aid for Dogs.

Let's Play

Thurmont Primary School
7989 Rocky Ridge Road, Thurmont, MD 21788
Frederick County
Submitted by: Ms. Suzanne Norwood and Ms. Nan McCorkle

Interactive toys, a picture script, teacher modeling and instructions will be utilized to teach appropriate play skills to delayed preschool students until they are ready to be placed in an integrated setting.

What Do Trees & Tees Have to Do With Each Other?

Tuscarora Elementary School
6321 Lambert Drive, Frederick, MD 21703
Frederick County
Submitted by: Ms. Karen Yoho, Ms. Barbara Parsons, Ms. Susan Mount, Ms. Janet McKeever, and Ms. Kristina Foley

What do trees and tees have to do with each other?

Classroom Capers: A Cooperative Project for Creating a Classroom Magazine

Running Brook Elementary School
5215 W. Running Brook Elementary School, Columbia, MD 21044
Howard County
Submitted by: Mrs. Carolyn Hairston-Diggs and Mr. Eric Soskil

Students will create, design, layout and publish a high-quality magazine that will showcase their writing skills.

Career Fair Project

The Pathway Schools
1106 University Blvd., West, Silver Spring, MD 20902
Montgomery County
Submitted by: Mr. Anthony Hamm

Students will participate in the transition program, which will provide them with information in determining realistic goals and develop the confidence to seek employment and training in the future.

Recess Readers

Bells Mill Elementary School
8225 Bells Mill ES, Potomac, MD 20854
Montgomery County
Submitted by: Ms. Debra Taylor and Ms. Lois Hough

Purchase additional books and audiotapes to engage more economically disadvantaged students to participate in their recess readings and provide them with the opportunity to make text-to-text connections.

Forces and Motion - Studying Structures

Broad Acres Elementary School
710 Beacon Road, Silver Spring, MD 20903
Montgomery County
Submitted by: Ms. Meghan Lipcon and Ms. Carol Gayle

Fifth graders will design, build and test the structure and strength of a spaghetti bridge with the help of a construction engineer and present findings at the school inquiry conference.

Digital Storytelling: A Study of Seymour Simon

Burning Tree Elementary School
7900 Beech Tree Road, Bethesda, MD 20817
Montgomery County
Submitted by: Mr. Travis Wiebe, Ms. Ann Kim, Ms. Mary Kunst, Ms. Heather Whitby, and Ms. Donna Dieckman

Seymour Simon's photographic essays will be studied integrating science, writing and digital photography culminating in a multimedia digital storybook display.

Lights! Camera! Action! Read!

Gaithersburg High School
314 South Frederick Avenue, Gaithersburg, MD 20877
Montgomery County
Submitted by: Ms. Kerry Zahn

ESOL curricula will be infused with film technology to facilitate the development of literacy skills for children most of whom have had no or little formal education.

A Snapshot in Time

Kensington Parkwood Elementary School
4710 Saul Road, Kensington, MD 20895
Montgomery County
Submitted by: Ms. Rose Ann Schwartz, Ms. Susan Mackey, Ms. Rosemarie Architzel, and Mr. Allen Harp

Students will take responsibility in creating a series of short vignettes that will highlight contributions of artists from their own cultural heritage.

Poetry Project

Montgomery Blair High School
51 University Blvd. E., Silver Spring, MD 20901
Montgomery County
Submitted by: Ms. Lisa Hack and Ms. Vickie Adamson

Students will participate in 90-minute poetry writing workshops with a poet-in-residence. At the end of two weeks, they will participate in an evening Poetry Slam.

Honoring Our Elders

Rock Creek Forest Elementary
8330 Grubb Road, Chevy Chase, MD 20815
Montgomery County
Submitted by: Ms. Mary Crilley and Ms. Kimberly Sexton-Hooper

Storyteller Candace Wolf helps students develop their reading, writing, investigative and interpersonal skills in a 6-week residency involving senior citizens.

Murder Mystery: From Crime Scene to Crime Lab

Silver Spring International Middle School
313 Wayne Avenue, Silver Spring, MD 20910
Montgomery County
Submitted by: Mr. Jason Jefferson

Laboratory equipment decoding DNA will be purchased to help 7th graders get an authentic, hands-on experience with data gathering and conduct real lab work

Celebrating World Cultures

Sligo Creek Elementary School
500 Schuyler Road, Silver Spring, MD 20910
Montgomery County
Submitted by: Ms. Mary Hochkeppel

A series of academic and arts events celebrating various cultures around the world, which is a collaborative effort among students, teachers and the parents/ PTA.

Knights in the Kitchen

Wheaton High School
12601 Dalewood Drive, Silver Spring, MD 20906
Montgomery County
Submitted by: Ms. Joan Locastro and Ms. Kerri Mullins

A hands-on cooking program for students with mental retardation aimed at increasing their independence and emphasizing the critical life skills of safety in the kitchen, sanitation principles, nutrition and healthy food choices and basic food preparation skills.

Is There a Doctor in the House?

Holy Trinity Episcopal Day School
11902 Daisey Lane, Glenn Dale, MD 20769
Prince George's County
Submitted by: Ms. Jennifer Wood

8th graders will conduct "hands-on dissection" of various specimens using point and click versions of scissors and scalpels allowing the students to find and remove organs without dealing with formaldehyde and disposal of waste materials.

Stepping into the Past

Holy Trinity Episcopal Day School
11902 Daisey Lane, Glenn Dale, MD 20769
Prince George's County
Submitted by: Ms. Amy Littlefield

6th graders will relive the ancient Greek and Roman civilizations by creating artifacts for display in a class museum culminating in a toga party with Greek and Italian food and costumes.

Nonverbal Communication for the Nonverbal Student

Fort Foote Elementary School
8300 Oxon Hill Road, Fort Washington, MD 20744
Prince George's County
Submitted by: Ms. Eleanora Buchheister

Sign Language software will be purchased to assist teachers in enhancing communications skills of students who are nonverbal despite normal and some with autism.

Learning About Biomes

Glenridge Elementary School
7200 Gallatin Street, Landover Hills, MD 20784
Prince George's County
Submitted by: Ms. Joan Ramsay

Kindergarteners are introduced to the diversity and interdependence of living things in different habitat as they explore animals, plants and climates of five different biomes.

Enriching the Math Curriculum through Literature

Greenbelt Elementary School
66 Ridge Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770
Prince George's County
Submitted by: Ms. Elisabeth Smith and Ms. Lisa Hazel

Books will be purchased to allow the teachers to enhance the use of literature in enriching the math curriculum for 600 students in Pre-K to 6th grade.

Book Making for ESOL and Special Education

James H. Harrison Elementary School
13200 Larchdale Road, Laurel, MD 20708
Prince George's County
Submitted by: Ms. Carollyn James and Ms. Michelle Park

ESOL and Special Education ESOL students in grades 1-6 will write, edit, illustrate and bind original stories about their families, their culture and themselves in order to better understand English, self-expression and the elements of stories.

Blankets of Hope

Parkdale High School
6001 Goodluck Road, Riverdale, MD 20737
Prince George's County
Submitted by: Ms. Susan D. Baudoin

Students will design and create blankets to be sent to wounded soldiers overseas.

Hands-On Science Experiences for Special Education Students

Tanglewood Regional Center School
8333 Woodyard Road, Clinton, MD 20735
Prince George's County
Submitted by: Ms. Kim Bessler and Ms. Katherine Garrity

Instructional books for 30 special education students with severe to profound impairment participating in the Alternate Maryland State Assessment (Alt-MSA) to increase their mastery and confidence levels.

Kinder Garden

University Park Elementary School
4315 Underwood, Hyattsville, MD 20782
Prince George's County
Submitted by: Ms. Kristen Gutierrez and Ms. Drena Galarza

Kindergarten children, their parents and teachers will be involved in a gardening project at school from getting the plots ready, seeding, planting, growing and harvesting.

Sisters in Science (S.I.S.)

Cora Kelly School for Math, Science & Technology
3600 Commonwealth Avenue, Alexandria, VA 22305
Alexandria City
Submitted by: Ms. Suzette Adams

This project is an after-school science enrichment program to enable female 3rd graders to the wonders and joy of science-related literature and activities using mentors, a female scientist and science games

A Tool for Teaching Reading and Speech

Stratford Program
4102 Vacation Lane, Arlington, VA 22207
Arlington County
Submitted by: Ms. Lucy Hajdu

This project is designed to utilize a selection of picture books accompanied by a cassette tape read by professional performers to better keep the attention of the non-reading students and to encourage and aid the struggling readers to sharpen their skills.

We Can Be Authors Too!

Knollwood Community Preschool
10000 Coffer Woods Road, Burke, VA 22015
Fairfax County
Submitted by: Ms. Carolyn Kramer

“We Can Be Authors Too,” creates original spin-off books based on commercially-produced trade books with each child contributing a page to the finished product; the children borrow the books to take home to share with their families

La Musica

Cunningham Park Elementary School
1001 Park Street, SE, Vienna, VA 22180
Fairfax County
Submitted by: Ms. Elena Heyer, Ms. Sharon Gregg, Ms. Holly Orr, Ms. Sarah McDonald, and Ms. Cynthia Carlton

Multiple copies of Spanish CDs will be purchased to reinforce the teaching of Spanish vocabulary and educational content.

Proportional Growth?

Edgar Allan Poe Middle School
7000 Cindy Lane, Annandale, VA 22003
Fairfax County
Submitted by: Ms. Catherine Hawkins

Seventh grade math students will use "Grows in water" toy dinosaurs to understand proportions; measuring dimensions before and after submersion in water for several days, then use mathematics of proportions to draw conclusions on toy growth.

From Dreams Come Actions

Herndon High School
700 Bennett Street, Herndon, VA 20170
Fairfax County
Submitted by: Ms. Bernice Robillard

Students in the developmental reading classes will research and discuss ways to help the many homeless animals rescued during the natural disasters; they will create a book that will focus on making others aware of the needs of local shelters, animal rescue missions and pet adoption agencies especially the ones who are struggling with their reading skills.

S.T.A.R. Book Club - Grade 3 Students Talk About Reading Books by Featured Authors Seymour Simon and Jerry Pallotta

Hollin Meadows Science and Math Focus Elementary School
2310 Nordok Place, Alexandria, VA 22306
Fairfax County

Submitted by: Mrs. Kristin Eberhardt-Izzo, Ms. Kelly Long, Ms. Deborah Sita, Ms. Elisabeth Charles, and Ms. Robin Rossi

Students talk about reading books by featured authors Seymour Simon and Jerry Pallotta.

Building a Non-fiction Classroom Library

Key Middle School
6402 Franconia Road, Springfield, VA 22150
Fairfax County
Submitted by: Ms. Cara Rooney

Grant request to provide low-level high interest non-fiction books to enhance skills development of beginner ESOL students.

Teen Parents Bond

Mount Vernon High School
8515 Old Mount Vernon Road, Alexandria, VA 22309
Fairfax County
Submitted by: Ms. Beverly Card

Teens and their parents deal with issues on being pregnant and having babies in three monthly workshops featuring appropriate guest speakers.

Literature Live!

Pimmit Hills High School
7510 Lisle Avenue, Falls Church, VA 22043
Fairfax County
Submitted by: Ms. Lindsay Terragna

Students will read William Goding's Lord of the Flies and study the literary elements of the novel. They will also see the performance of the same at the Round House Theatre in Bethesda, MD.

Hands-On Science Center

Pine Spring Elementary School
7607 Willow Lane, Falls Church, VA 22042
Fairfax County
Submitted by: Ms. Martine Pistell and Ms. Veronica Campbell

The students will reinforce concepts taught through hands-on investigation and observation utilizing various types of materials and manipulatives and develop a natural curiosity of the world around them.

Popsicle Stick Bridge Building Project

Robert E. Lee High School
6540 Franconia Road, Springfield, VA 22150
Fairfax County
Submitted by: Mr. Joseph A. Malley

Students will design, build and destructively test model Truss Bridges constructed from popsicle sticks and water soluble Elmer's glue.

Family Literacy Nights

Mt. Daniel Elementary School
2328 N. Oak Street, Falls Church, VA 22046
Falls Church
Submitted by: Ms. Sydney Snyder and Ms. Karen Bevan

This project coordinates monthly family literacy nights for parents and students to include Parent-Child Together (PACT) time, parent education and early childhood enrichment activities.

Flip for Digital Essays

Farmwell Station Middle School
44281 Gloucester Parkway, Ashburn, VA 20147
Loudoun County
Submitted by: Ms. Freyja Bergthorson and Ms. Carol Wenger

Eighth Grade student review and practice writing skills and the use of Flip video cameras while creating video clip essays and editing them.

Boosting Literacy with Graphic Novels

Farmwell Station Middle School
44281 Gloucester Parkway, Ashburn, VA 20147
Loudoun County
Submitted by: Ms. Sandra Hood

Encourage and engage ESOL students and emergent readers to read more on their own and strengthen current reading skills through a graphic book club.

Fantastic Famous Americans

Potowmack Elementary School
46465 Esterbrook Circle, Sterling, VA 20165
Loudoun County
Submitted by: Ms. Michele Rzewski-Copeland, Ms. Shelia Reilly, Ms. Elizabeth Galvan, Ms. Susan Smith, and Ms. Janie Gaudens

First grade students will research on Famous Americans and create a book based on the research with the help of their parents.

Catch it: Teaching Mathematical Concepts through Hands-on Activities

Manassas Park Middle School
8202 Euclid Avenue, Manassas Park, VA 20111
Manassas Park
Submitted by: Mr. Jason Rittenhouse

Teaching mathematical concepts through hands-on activities.

A is for Algorithm

Mayfield Intermediate School
8550 Signal Hill Road, Manassas, VA 20110
Manassas City
Submitted by: Ms. Kathy Bacon

Fifth graders will publish a hardbound math ABC / vocabulary book entitled "A is for Algorithm" for each student to keep and cherish.

See Myself! Hear Myself! Read All By Myself!

Alvey Elementary School
5300 Waverly Farm Drive, Haymarket, VA 20169
Prince William County
Submitted by: Ms. Leslie Harper

Technology will be incorporated into the curriculum to improve reading fluency, speed and comprehension of students with the help of an IT specialist.

Hands on Reading with Reading Rods

Ashland Elementary School
15300 Bowman's Folly Drive, Manassas, VA 20112
Prince William County
Submitted by: Ms. Allison Klein

A set of 6 Reading Rods for six 1st grade teachers will be purchased to provide them with additional hands-on tools in assisting students hone their reading skills.

Super Sleuth

Glenkirk Elementary School
8584 Sedge Wren Drive, Gainesville, VA 20155
Prince William County
Submitted by: Ms. Gina Townsend

Students select, practice, and conduct basic science experiments that are safe enough to be conducted with minimal assistance using everyday household items to provide creative opportunities for them to learn science investigations.

I Get I.T.

John F. Pattie Elementary School
16125 Dumfries Road, Dumfries, VA 22025
Prince William County
Submitted by: Ms. JeriLynn Hoffman and Ms. Kathy Letsky

Project "I Get I.T." is an interdisciplinary, cross-cultural initiative to improve comprehension by involving children, teachers and parents in active reading strategies on informational texts.

Word Building

Sinclair Elementary School
7801 Garner Drive, Manassas, VA 20109
Prince William County
Submitted by: Ms. Rachel Wilson

Word building mats will be purchased as tools for a school-wide guided reading plan to assist children in constructing/breaking words more easily for both teachers and parent volunteers.