

Large Grants 2009-10

John Gelcomino, Lisa Traut, Joe Macchia/Media Department, Neuqua Valley High School
Sounds Good

Boom microphone and three lavalier microphones will be used daily and provide students with opportunity to work with professional-level, industry-standard audio equipment to produce weekly newscast "Wildcat Weekly," as well as other school-related videos. New microphones also will enhance taping of graduations, opening ceremonies, IPEF recognition dinners.

Allen Davenport, Principal, Hill Middle School
Summer Explorers Program

In partnership with North Central College, this program was developed to help 15-20 "at risk" 6th-8th graders to continue learning during summer months – three days a week for five weeks (last week of June and four weeks in July) – the equivalent of 14 days or 49 hours of learning.

Each day, the curriculum will include Community Circle (social/emotional topics)/reading/math and science (space explorers, ocean rescue, crime scene investigations/forensics).

Carolyn Gloeckle, Science Department, Waubonsie Valley High School

Varying Teaching Modalities in Science

Purchase of 65 DVDs from the *Bill Nye the Science Guy* series will enrich the educational experiences of about 900 biology/chemistry/physics and earth science students each school year – by expanding teaching modalities through audio and visual interaction. This DVD series (which correlates with the Dist. 204 curriculum) was designed to motivate and encourage scientific thinking, provide demonstrations that are too dangerous and too expensive for the classroom setting, and present serious academic content in a humorous manner.

Joe Ruzicka, Adrienne O'Neal, Sarah Horn, Sunita Lindberg, Mark Cummings, Ann Back, Chris Mueller, Adam Hoff, Biology Department, Neuqua Valley High School

Fossilized Hominid Skull Replicas

As part of a Biology Department unit on human evolution, students study replicas of fossilized hominid skulls to learn how hominids have changed over time. However, due to a limited number of skulls (purchased 10 years ago) they have been used primarily as "show

and tell” materials. This IPEF grant was used to buy additional skulls for a student research project, which has allowed each teacher and students to use a set of the skulls for more than one day and to study them and hominids in greater depth.

Don Devany, Ryan Doherty, Jim Schmid, Metea Valley High School

Lighting for Black Box Small Theater

This lighting will allow the Black Box space to be available for the more intimate performances that will round out our students’ experiences at Metea Valley.

For theater, this lighting provides our technical crew the opportunity to design and implement a manageable lighting scheme for group interpretation, student-directed showcases, and our theater classes, especially for our students who will be majoring in theater in college.

In the case of music performances, this lighting will provide the opportunity for student recitals and jazz cabarets that would be swallowed whole in our beautiful, but large, auditorium. Also, small ensemble work will be more appropriately presented in this space.

Alayna Vlagos, Waubonsie Valley High School

Link Crew Mentor Program

More than 800 students will benefit from this mentoring program for Waubonsie freshmen.

The Link program is a nationwide high-school transition program that utilizes junior and senior peer mentors. The goal of the Link program is to create a positive experience for freshmen in order to make them more successful in high school and beyond. The Link program creates opportunities for junior and senior mentors to guide the entire freshmen class of 700 students. Academic and social activities are planned throughout the year to help the freshmen succeed at the high-school level. Just over 100 juniors and seniors volunteer their time to go into the freshmen classrooms and lead activities that promote a positive school culture and teach skills necessary to be successful in high school.

The first event is the freshmen orientation, which introduces the freshmen students to mentors and the school. Students participate in small group activities to help acclimate themselves to high school. During the school year the mentors lead class activities and provide academic and social support.

Nathan, Bramstedt, Don Devany, Mark Liu, Glen Schneider, Music Department, Metea Valley High School

Winter Concert

Grant supported two performances of Metea Valley High School's first Winter Concert, which was presented December 8, 2009, at Wentz Hall on the campus of North Central College. The concert included performances by 360 Metea students who are part of three curricular bands, four curricular choirs, and three curricular orchestras.