

Cumberland Educational Foundation Grants

STARLAB

Starlab was the first grant awarded by the Cumberland Education Foundation. This idea was a collaborative effort between the middle school and elementary school, because of the Cumberland School District being awarded a NASA grant. Starlab is a precise, interactive and exciting planetarium. The portable dome creates an ideal environment for hands-on, minds-on activities. Starlab is an inflated dome structure 16 feet across and 11 feet high, Starlab can accommodate up to 25 students. The star instrument can project the sun, moon, stars, and planets. A special projector is used to project constellation outlines and a slide projector is used to show what objects look like close up. Additional cylinders can be purchased for the Starlab. This grant application was submitted by Anna Mika.

AUTHOR IN RESIDENCE

The next grant was awarded for an "Author in Residence". To many young children, an author is just the name on the front of a book. The idea of an author as a real person is rather abstract to them. The thought of being an author as a career choice never even occurs to them. The purpose of the author in residence program was to expose students to an author and to the way an author works. The great success of the program had to do with Katie McKy, the author that "resided" in our school. Katie had previously taught children and adults, so her teaching skills were excellent. She engaged both teachers and students and the building vibrated with energy when she was there. Katie had 90 hours student contact time where she taught them specific writing skills. She taught staff on various topics for 6 hours. We had two "family nights" of two hours each where Katie performed stories for the public. The first night we had 250 people in attendance, and 350 the second. Many parents spoke of how much their children loved the time they spent with Katie, and how their child loved writing. Katie also connected two teachers to an editor and they have continued to write and publish articles. This helps keep alive the original purpose of the program as a few students are exposed to their teachers being published authors; students realize an author is a real person who gets paid for his/her work. Meg Atkins, along with Jim Richie, Beth Sommerfeld, Barb Lynch, Karen Mitchell, Deb Tempesta and Jan Keehn submitted this grant application.

INCREDIBLE BACKYARD

The "Incredible Backyard" was the next grant awarded by the Cumberland Education Foundation. The goal was to create an outdoor classroom, an "incredible backyard" for all CSD students and the local community. Students have played a vital role in creating this native plant area. They began by covering the existing area with a ground cloth, to ready the soil for the new native plants. Over the last 4 years the students and teachers have planted 1,000+ seedling plants. Summer school students have made stepping-stones, bird, bat, frog, and butterfly homes. Mulch trails have been established throughout the area. Thanks to Odden Flowers for providing the mulch. Two additional grants were awarded through 3M to build a small shelter (built by Craig Turcott Construction) and to purchase iPods for classes to use out in the "Incredible Backyard". Currently, the teachers are working with Ron Hellstern from Woodland Signs to build a sign for the area. They are also in the process of looking to sandblast a rock with special thanks to all the sponsors of the backyard. Just another great learning opportunity this grant has offered our CSD students! This grant application was submitted by Tirzah Zipperer and Sheri Johnson.

2010 CANOES

The 2010 foundation grant certainly benefitted the students at Cumberland High School. Six canoes, as well as life jackets, paddles, transport trailers, rope and bungee cords were purchased. Training aids to

improve students' strength and stamina were also purchased. The physical education department worked along with the charter school to borrow and share equipment, taking advantage of kayaks as well. Students learned to plan a trip, safely load and unload canoes, and practiced basic strokes to navigate on Beaver Dam Lake and the Namekagon River. Team work and cooperation has been the theme, as well as teaching students to learn to adapt and adjust to weather, wind, and temperature. Some members of the community have borrowed the equipment and enjoyed traveling up and down Beaver Dam Lake and area rivers. Hopefully Community Education will offer additional opportunities for community members to use this equipment. The physical education department would like to extend a huge thank you to the Foundation Grant Committee, as well as individuals who contributed to the Foundation Grant Fund in the past. Barry Zappa submitted this grant application.

2011 OUTDOOR LEARNING CENTER

The Foundation Grant Committee awarded the 2011 grant to create an outdoor learning center at the school forest for the students of the district and members of the community to come together in healthy outdoor learning activities and community events. The forest shelter is designed to be completed in phases as additional funds, materials, and labor become available. The goal during construction is to make the building a learning tool and a demonstration site for green building practices wherever possible within the budget available. Since we also want to encourage the community members to use the school forest we will seek their involvement in the building process as well. This grant application was submitted by Cheryl Schnell.

2012 E-READERS & WHIRLIGIGS

The Board of Trustees selected two grants for 2012. The trustees granted \$15,000 to provide e-readers for the middle and high school libraries. This grant proposal was submitted by Heidi Fauske and Jennifer Snowbank. The addition of e-readers to these libraries will significantly increase the number and variety of books available to students in the Cumberland School District, allowing students to study books they would otherwise not have access to. The trustees also granted \$3,000 to Whirligigs, a circus arts club at the high school. This grant will provide them with safety and other equipment. This grant proposal was submitted by Laurie Broome. The Whirligigs is an entertaining and unique group. You will not want to miss their performance at the Light a Legacy Event.

2012 KID'S CLUB

This year's grant was awarded to the elementary school for "Kid's Club". Kid's Club is a three-week day camp during the summer designed to enrich students' reading and math skills while allowing them to enjoy and learn in the outdoors in our beautiful part of the country. This grant proposal was submitted by Principal, Jim Richie, Eric Becker and Leslie Carlson.

2013 ENDEAVOR STADIUM

The Foundation also has the special pleasure of announcing our support of Endeavor Stadium, the new multi-use facility at the high school, with a \$75,000 grant. This facility will be utilized by every student in the school district. It will host not only a variety of sporting events, but also band events, physical education classes, graduations and other community events. It will be an example to visitors of the pride we all take in our schools and our community.

2014 A DAY IN THE LIFE

Our grant winter this year was Ann Kysely for "A Day in the Life", in which students will experience first-hand the complexities of poverty, meet and serve those affected and take what they have experienced

and learned and address the issues of poverty in their own communities. The students will participate in empathic activities in a retreat-like setting and also set up service projects for the day, including builds on Habitat sites. The Junior class will go to the Twin Cities for this activity. By having this activity be part of the Junior year, it will allow the school to develop a community-based service project that our students will be required to participate in and complete their Senior year. The idea is to bring to light the need and importance of giving to the community.

2015 Legacy Grant #1

“A Day in the Life”, is intended to give our students an opportunity to experience and develop an understanding of the importance of affordable housing and educate our students on homelessness, which will develop a stronger sense of responsibility for the community in which they live, work and go to school. This grant was submitted by Ann Kysely.

2015 Legacy Grant #2

“Middle School Foundation Camp”, which will be an expansion of the current Foundation Camp already being offered to grades 1-4 and 5-6, will provide a week-long resident camp in 2015 for grades 5-8. This experience will model a traditional summer camp setting to foster growth in the areas of science, technology, engineering, and math by meshing developed STEM curriculum with activities that can adapt to a camp situation. This grant was submitted by Eric Becker.

2015 Legacy Grant #3

“Maker Space”, will allow our students to be able to use the tools and technology, such as a sound booth and green screen for creating video productions, to support current curriculum requirements in various classes. Students will be able to use the Maker Space environment supplied with new tools and technology to explore interests and career paths, such as coding and creating projects on a 3D printer. This grant was submitted by Jennifer Snowbank.

2016 Brain Base Learning

Brain Base Learning training at the elementary school. This program is a multi-sensory, child-friendly, movement-based approach to learning. The activities develop the readiness skills needed for academic success in reading, writing and listening. This research-based system increases physiological and neurological readiness in the brain by activating the brain stem.