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## Milton Foundation for Education Awards Grants to Teachers

By Erika Donahue  
Milton Foundation for Education

The spring round of the Milton Foundation for Education's competitive grants program awarded nearly \$12,000 to teachers, therapists and specialists in the Milton schools for projects that will enhance classroom lessons, the foundation announced this week.

The 15 projects awarded funding were chosen from 30 proposals reviewed by a panel of MFE trustees and educators. Twice a year, the MFE's competitive grants program seeks proposals from teachers and funds projects designed to supplement the curriculum and programs of the Milton Public Schools.

"We're always looking for proposals that will make a real difference in the quality of student's education," said MFE trustee Jim May, who chairs the grants committee. "In this round we saw an impressive number of proposals that will do just that, both in the classroom and in extracurricular activities. Our students are fortunate to have teachers with such imagination."

The competitive grants are made possible by generous donors to the MFE through its annual spring fundraising appeal and the Celebration for Education, a live and silent auction dinner event held in November.

"Twice a year the Milton Foundation for Education's competitive grants program provides supplemental resources for our classroom teachers, specialists and therapists at every level of the Milton Public Schools," said Milton Superintendent Magdalene Giffune. "The grants program stimulates creative proposals from our educators to better deliver class lessons, specialized services and student projects that reinforce our core curriculum. The school department deeply appreciates the work of the grants committee, the foundation and its generous supporters."

The recipients of MFE spring grants are:

Specialists Tracy Attaya and Jessica Cleary at the town's integrated pre-school at Tucker received \$1,820 for "Pre-school Play" to purchase materials to teach children with Autism Spectrum Disorder to play, an essential activity for developing imagination and socialization.

Glover first grade teacher Gina Piazz and occupational therapist Jim Green, who received \$565 for "Extreme Multi-sensory Approach," which will allow students to construct large alphabet letters using materials purchased with this grant for use in teaching handwriting in K-5. The project will use visual, tactile, and kinesthetic inputs as well as spacial awareness to build skills.

Pierce Middle School seventh-grade teachers Bill Baino, Mike Cleary and Nicole McCarthy who were awarded \$591 for "Big Maps", which will purchase materials to help students create big maps as a hands-on and creative approach to teaching geography.

Pierce seventh-grade teacher Susan McKay received \$538 for “Solid Geometry,” which will purchase three dimensional objects for use by 7th grade geometry students, with particular application for students with difficulty understanding three dimensions on two dimensional paper.

Pierce sixth grade science teachers Julie Callahan and David Romeo received \$1,295 for the “First Lego League Robotic Challenge” to fund equipment and materials for students who want to participate in a national robotics competition.

Collicot fourth grade inclusion teacher Kelley A. Hannon received \$230 for “Math Fact Lunch Munchers” to pay for supplies, math games and incentives for a lunch time math club.

Cunningham Elementary third grade teacher Janice Powell received \$200 for “Hands on History,” an instructional unit on every day lives of people in historic Dorchester using primary source document *Colonel Samuel Pierce's Account Book* to teach the concept of barter. The grant will cover the cost of an appearance by historical recreation actors.

Milton High School English and Journalism teacher Sheila Walsh received \$630 for “Journalism Curriculum Software” to purchase a license for graphic design software for use by Journalism I & II students.

Pierce health teacher Colleen Queally received \$1,826 for “Health Curriculum Enhancements” to purchase materials and equipment for three new units: Babysitter's training, Community First Aid and Safety (including CPR manikins), and HIV Prevention.

Cunningham second grade teachers Mary Rooney and Annemarie Calnan received \$538 for “Math Centers for Differentiated Learning” to purchase materials to supplement elementary math instruction. These materials will help students master skills that have been introduced but not reinforced in the official curriculum.

Pierce eighth grade French teacher Jeanne Roulleau received \$160 for “Les Monde des Ados” to supplement the French Cultural Studies curriculum with the purchase of a subscription to a French magazine written for middle school students.

Pierce band and music teacher Ian Barkon received \$1,487 for “Computer Piano Keyboard,” which will fund the purchase of a keyboard with music education/composition software to be used in teaching music composition to middle school students.

Cunningham reading specialist Anne Ware received \$900 for “LeapFrog Schoolhouse Literacy Center,” which will purchase six LeapFrog personal learning tools and a classroom library of interactive decodable books and phonics skill cards to use in the resource room. These materials provide independent, hands-on reading practice for first and second grade with special needs or those who need remedial support.

Milton high school English teacher Stephen Collyer received \$475 for “Poetry Jam,” which will fund spotlight, stage set, wardrobe, and music for use during the school's poetry jam.

Tucker teacher Daniela Ignagni received \$1,264 for “Scholastic News at Tucker School,” which will fund a subscription to Scholastic News for every student in the school. The magazine, which will be used to help students better read informational text, is also going to be used during a weekly integration of English and French classrooms.