

Milton Foundation for Education

P.O. Box 223, Milton, MA 02186

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Milton Foundation for Education Awards Spring Teacher Grants

Although the students are long gone for the summer, the teachers and staff of the Milton Public Schools are excited about the grants they just received from the Milton Foundation for Education. On Tuesday, June 16, members of the MFE Board of Trustees surprised teachers with grants ranging from \$528 to \$2,266 to fund a wide range of educational projects and initiatives.

Twice a year—in the fall and the spring—the MFE accepts proposals from teachers and staff at each of the six public schools in town. Leslie Collins chaired the 2009 Spring Grants Committee for the MFE and was impressed with the creativity of the proposals her committee received. “Given the uncertainty of next year's budget, the teachers continued to think outside of the box about how they can best teach our children,” Collins said. “I think this is yet another example of the excellent staff we have in the Milton Public Schools.”

Lauren Kapalka is the Band Director at Pierce Middle School and Dawn Sykes is the Choral Director at the school. They co-authored a grant request to purchase non-pitch percussion instruments for the sixth, seventh, and eighth grade general music classes.

The two music teachers were thrilled to learn that their request had been granted. Kapalka believes that providing students with various percussion instruments will allow students to be more engaged during music classes, as well as to learn music concepts more deeply. “While listening to music and reading music are of course important activities, there is no substitute for performing and creating music using actual instruments,” Kapalka said.

In all, the Milton Foundation for Education awarded nine teacher grants totaling \$9567 this spring. At Pierce: Dawn Sykes and Lauren Kapalka (percussion instruments); Susan McKay (SMARTboard software for math); Jessica McKillop, Kerri Devin, and Genevieve Martland (a cutting machine to enhance the looks and durability of books that the sixth graders make); Christine Charbonneau and Kelli Prodanas (Listening Centers for struggling readers). At Collicot: Meaghan Medici, Marlene Mason and Debbie Fidrocki (software for enhancing reading fluency, expression, and comprehension at all levels). At Cunningham: Christine Gerber (books about character building to be used in their "Virtue of the Month" program); Patty Andresino (science non-

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fiction books to enhance curriculum and aid research projects); Chase Eschauzier (leveled textbooks for grade 3 to increase comprehension and fluency). At Tucker: Meredith Caffelle and Meaghan Ohrenberger (materials to expand the adaptive book library to allow for an interactive approach to reading for students with a variety of learning disabilities). Teachers and staff will be able to purchase their items over the summer and will have them in place when students return in the fall.

The Milton Foundation for Education is a private, non-profit organization established in 1996. Its mission is to enhance the quality of education provided to students in the Milton Public Schools. The Foundation generates and distributes financial resources for enrichment programs that would not otherwise be available through the regular school budget. Their goal is to supplement, not supplant the regular school budget. For more information on Milton Foundation for Education or on the recent teacher grants, please visit www.miltonfoundationforeducation.org.

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