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## **Grants Awarded by the Panther Foundation**

### **Fall 2009 Fourteen grants, total of \$19,941**

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#### **■ IPOD Touch for Learning**

This project integrates 21st Century tools into the classroom and provides students from all economic backgrounds a unique opportunity. Grades 1 and 2 will utilize the Apple iTouch to bridge learning between grade levels and differentiate instruction in the areas of literacy and math. Free or low-cost iTouch apps will be downloaded and used during small group instruction and independent center work in math and literacy. Teachers can easily tailor different apps to specific students based on ability and/or need.

*Northpoint Elementary School*

#### **■ Micro-Scale Chemistry**

Funding will allow for the purchase of materials to start doing chemistry labs on a micro-scale, which uses drops instead of milliliters for each lab; this allows for smaller group sizes, giving all students more opportunities for hands-on learning at a lesser cost. The initial start-up fees will produce future significant cost-savings.

*Spring Lake Park High School*

#### **■ Early Autism Spectrum Disorder Lending Library**

This grant will fund the beginning of a lending library to aid families of young children with Autism Spectrum Disorder. The library will include videos that teach a variety of developmental skills to children as well as help families better understand ASD and be able to provide support for their children. Early intervention is key to helping ASD children learn skills they need to succeed in school and life.

*Early Childhood Special Education*

#### **■ 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Math Anchor Activities**

This project uses math board games as anchor activities to allow the teacher to pull small groups of students to re-teach and reinforce skills not yet mastered. Anchor activities allow students to work independently throughout a unit or semester on assignments directly related to curriculum.

*Woodcrest Elementary School*

### ■ **10<sup>th</sup> Grade CPR Training**

This project will allow every 10th grader to participate in two days of CPR training which should result in CPR/AED certification, allowing students to respond in an emergency situation.

*Spring Lake Park High School*

### ■ **Artist in Residence**

Two artists in residence, a Native American and a spoken-word artist will participate in art, social studies, and language arts classes, integrating arts, cultural diversity and providing exposure to local artists. Personalization and learning from a direct source is a very inspiring and meaningful experience for students.

*Westwood Middle School*

### ■ **Differentiation & English Language Learners**

This project is designed to increase literacy by providing literature specifically for English Language Learners. ELL students need more access to books at their reading level so they will not only read better, but learn English faster while having fun. This funding will assist with the purchase of about 200 high interest, low reading level books to seed a new non-fiction, high-interest low-reading level collection at the high school media center.

*Spring Lake Park High School*

### ■ **Improving Through Improv**

Funding will allow for a one-term course on improvisation skills which will be used to meet the “arts” requirement and/or communication requirement for graduation. The course will teach the basic improvisation skills, apply those skills in dealing with life issues, and possibly start an extra-curricular activity for interested students. The project is expected to build competency, and increase communication, collaboration, and conflict management among students.

*Learning Alternatives Community School*

### ■ **SSITT (Social Skills Improvement through Theater)**

The grant will allow for an after-school learning program for children with autism spectrum disorders. This program will provide an opportunity for students to be socially engaged in an after-school program tailored to improve social language weaknesses while allowing for a feeling of being connected to the school beyond the classroom. By offering a program at an early level that promotes success, it will give students the confidence to become more involved in activities throughout MS and HS.

*Westwood Intermediate School*

### ■ **Successfully Reaching our Students in Need**

This grant would fund a two-hour program meeting two-days a week for 14 weeks working with students that meet the Targeted Services eligibility criteria of “at risk of not graduating.” Funding will help provide for incentives for those with strong attendance and behavior, and a service-learning field trip.

*Westwood Middle School*

### ■ **Early Play Skills Project: Parent Training and Lending Library**

This grant will fund the beginning of a toy lending library for Early Childhood Special Education families. The library will contain multiple toys from different levels of play development and is geared toward teaching parents of young children with absent or delayed play skills how to develop their child’s play skills from a low level to an age-appropriate level.

*Early Childhood Special Education*

### ■ **Flight Simulators for Exploring Aviation**

This grant will help provide flight simulator programs with joy sticks to be installed in the media center nook computers. Students in the Exploring Aviation Program will use the Flight Simulators throughout their course.

*Spring Lake Park High School*

### ■ **No Child Left Inside**

We will provide disadvantaged and at-risk youth with the opportunity to build leadership, self-confidence and problem-solving skills by doing things outdoors that they normally would not be able to afford. These outdoor experiences will maximize abilities through challenge and adventure, recognize values as an individual and as a team member, develop self-confidence and problem-solving skills. Possible activities might include hiking, ice fishing, snow-shoeing, rock climbing, canoeing, orienteering and a high ropes challenge

*Learning Alternatives Community School*

### ■ **Board Games for Teaching Classroom Content**

This project will bring students and staff together to adapt or create board games that promote critical thinking and strategy skills along with course content. Adapted games allow students to engage fully in the information in a less threatening manner than direct instruction.

*Learning Alternatives Community School*