

Grant Highlights

2009

- **Alternative Education Orientation**
Faculty, students and administrators prepare for new alternative education program
- **Wireless Word Processor**
Assist students to formulate thoughts and expressions through reading and writing analysis
- **World Language 21st Century**
High tech projector and smart board to facilitate advanced learning
- **Literacy Center**
Equipped center to facilitate access to literature
- **Learning Through Play**
Mock kitchen to teach pre-schoolers social skills using dramatized play
- **Mileage Club**
Providing elementary school students mileage tokens for participating in exercise program
- **Digital Camera**
Provided state-of-the-art digital camera and accessories for district-wide use involving social, educational activities
- **Vision Warrior**
Provided high school students with dynamic speaker to help in facilitating life choices
- **Social Skills Convention**
Provided all elementary school students a convention setting to discuss and develop social skills (i.e. bullying, conflict resolution)

2008

- **Multimedia Suite**
State of the art technology software and computer utilized by students and staff in the high school for technology education.
- **Amistad America**
GPS technology traces Amistad historical journeys.
- **World Language Projectors**
Interactive teaching technology allows students to learn online with numerous resources, along with various activities including verbal practice skills.
- **Carbo Reading Listening Center**
Literacy technology to increase reading fluency by synchronizing the spoken and written words through audiotape passages.
- **Headlines**
State of the art computer technology that enables students to write, edit, and produce events/programs at the elementary school. Programs are aired weekly on the cable channel.
- **CAPHERD**
Professional development grant enabled the physical education staff to participate in a conference on physical education trends of the future.

2007

- **Higgin's Armory**
To expand the MBA Medieval Day for the 7th grade. "The Gothic Knight", an interactive production displayed and discussed dress, weaponry and armor.
- **Historical Archives iPods**
Special equipped iPods are utilized by students to record interviews with veterans from World War II. The interviews are downloaded on a computer and the entire interview is posted

into an archive on the school website. The archive will be utilized by the history classes to write reflection pieces or consult for research papers.

- **Video Development and Design PC**
A high powered Mac Book Pro laptop computer provides high school students with the capability to develop, edit and produce various projects and productions including creating DVDs for projects both in and outside the classroom.
- **College Connections**
Four partner schools and Asnuntuck Community College joined to offer a college course to high school students focusing on global development – Chinese culture, history, and language – which culminated with a trip to the United Nations in New York City.
- **Renaissance Program**
A program to recognize all facets of educational performances to build self-esteem and esprit de corps.
- **Kindergarten Literacy**
Interactive carpets which enhance the kindergarten literacy program. Numbers and letters create games to reinforce concepts.
- **Improving Reading Fluency**
2nd grade at-risk readers use a hand held digital voice recorder to self-correct and improve timing and fluency.
- **SADD Prom Speaker**
Presentation for the high school student body the day of the prom. Students are encouraged to make positive, responsible life choices regarding drugs, alcohol, etc.
- **Life Skills – Fire Prevention**

Somers Fire Department and EMT's instruct middle school students about fire prevention and safety, first aid, care of injuries and CPR. Each MBA student has "hands-on" experience.

2006

- **Traverse Climbing Wall**
Unique educational tool assists the district in fulfilling new, non-traditional physical fitness initiatives. The activities are not only physically motivating and challenging, but build student self-esteem and confidence. The wall could also be used for leadership development and training for both students and faculty.
- **Chew and Chat Book Discussion**
To strengthen the home-school connection by bringing parents and students together to discuss and interpret a novel.
- **Transport Technology**
To enhance student learning by using jump drive technology innovatively.
- **Positive Peer Principle Posters**
To use exemplary student interaction in the elementary school as a model for whole school life-long learning.
- **The Spartan Advocate Newspaper**
To increase student awareness, communication and school pride through student writing and photos about high school programs, sports, the school community and world issues.
- **Auditorium Sound System**
To partner with various groups to improve the quality of the sound system used by the school district and the Somers community.
- **Creative Approaches to Fluency and Word Work, Prod. Dev.**

A program for teachers to learn to identify weaknesses in student fluency which will improve reading progress.

- **The Courage to Speak Presentation**
To encourage high school students to make positive, responsible life choices.
- **Staff Training in Diversity and Self-Awareness**
All elementary teachers participated in a training program provided by the Anti-Defamation League, specifically focusing on diversity and, self-awareness along with lessons to conduct with students.
- **Reading Book Tapes**
To increase third grade reading fluency by synchronizing the spoken and written words through audiotape passages.

2005

- **Forensic Investigation**
Hands on learning for students partnering with staff, police, fire department and State fire marshal to investigate a staged arson, utilizing techniques they learned in the classroom.
- **Diversity Coalition Presentation**
Presentation to high school students on awareness of racism and promoting a culture of acceptance.
- **Electrathon America Project**
Supported students utilizing academic skills to design, build and race a Kevlon/graphite car.
- **Vision Warrior Session**
Interactive presentation to high school students about making healthy life choices on issues such as drugs, alcohol, HIV, and teen pregnancy.

- **A Message of Personal Strength**
Partnered with PTA to purchase books and sponsor a visit by author Patricia Poloacco regarding personal strength.
- **After School Program**
Supported elementary school students in after school program promoting developing like strategies through the intricacies of chess.
- **Differentiated Instruction**
Professional development conference on “design differentiated instruction” and National Accreditation studies.
- **Development of Writing Skills**
Provided educational materials for project “using illustrations as a tool for teaching narrative writing”.
- **Time on Task**
Assisting students achieve time management skills through the use of timers/clocks.
- **Recommencing High School Newspaper**
Provided funding to recommence the high school newspaper to promote a positive culture while exploring careers in journalism and communications.