



2012-2013 FUNDED GRANTS

Inside you will learn about the many wonderful opportunities that the North Penn School District Educational Foundation is providing for students throughout the district with the help of many creative and dedicated educators and generous contributors. The 2012-2013 school year consists of 47 grants that cover varied subject areas and involve students at every grade level.

***Science Clubs - Extended School Care
(Marjie Scott)***

Students enrolled in the district's Extended School Care program at all 13 elementary school locations will have the opportunity to participate in a 12-week science club to develop a greater interest in science. The hands-on activities and experiments will give the students greater exposure to science and allow them to spend more time than they may be allotted in the classroom to experiment with the materials.

***Percussion Master Classes –
NPSD Students in Grades 4-9
(David Orehowsky/North Penn Music Department)***

Students in grades four through nine who play a percussion instrument will have a unique educational experience with a professional percussionist. Students will attend a Percussion Master Class and then participate in a hands-on clinic. NPSD band directors will also learn new techniques by observing the clinicians. The knowledge gained will carry directly into the students' school lessons and band settings.

***Zoo on Wheels - Extended School Year Program
(Sarah Barndt)***

The Secondary Extended School Year (ESY) Program in the North Penn School District is offered to students in special education to maintain the goals designed in their Individualized Education Plans (IEP's). Students enrolled in ESY will be visited by the Zoo on Wheels that will give them the opportunity to learn about animals. Educators will be able to design instruction creatively to incorporate knowledge of the animals that will be visiting. Extension opportunities will be available in all subject areas.

***Butterfly Man - Bridle Path Elementary School
(Maureen Zazyczny, Nancy Kahn, Elizabeth Melville)***

First grade students from Bridle Path Elementary School will receive a phenomenal presentation from Rick Mikula, a certified and world renowned butterfly expert. This project supplements the first grade science curriculum and acts as an enrichment opportunity that allows students to have first-hand visual experience.

Take a Bow!– Bridle Path Elementary School (Amanda Van Vliet, Stephanie Jablonski)

Elementary school students enrolled in the Extended School Year (ESY) Program will attend a six-week summer program. Students will learn the different types of literature through a comprehensive theater curriculum that will focus on reading and exploring plays. The Theater and Kids traveling theater company will visit the students to perform and teach an acting class. This opportunity will help with student goals, including engaging in activities, functional language, appropriate behaviors, social skills, following directions, expressive vocabulary building, building background knowledge of the world around them, daily living skills and personal safety skills.

Understanding Marine Life – Hatfield Elementary School (Marilyn Loeffler)

English Language Learners (ELL) at Hatfield Elementary School will gain an understanding of marine life, food chains, marine life cycles and ecosystems. The students will also gain vocabulary associated with marine habitats and learn valuable background information and knowledge necessary to understand written materials. Once learning the material in the classroom setting, the students will visit the Camden Aquarium to view marine habitats. They will watch live shows and participate in hands-on activities, which are especially important to children learning English because it gives them the necessary visual and kinesthetic learning to solidify new vocabulary.

***Hands-On Science – Hatfield Elementary School
(Andrea Bowers)***

Students at Hatfield Elementary School will visit the Franklin Institute to learn about science topics through hands-on experiences. Younger students will experience activities on the topics of air, water, earth and life while older students will explore how the earth is constantly changing and transforming. The activities will be entirely interactive so students will benefit by using multiple senses to understand content while gaining vocabulary and background knowledge. The visit to the Franklin Institute and the activities the students will engage in there aligns to science topics and reading themes within the elementary curriculum.

Technology in the Autism Classroom – Hatfield Elementary School (Sara Pileggi)

Hatfield Elementary School students in kindergarten through sixth grades who receive autistic support will use iPods and iPads to enhance academic skills, communication skills, life skills and fine motor skills. These devices will also be used as a way to improve behavior in the classroom as reward incentives. Technology devices help students with autism connect and learn the curriculum and skills being presented to them in the classroom. In addition, they help the students generalize what they have learned so they can transfer the skills in other settings.

***Opening Experiences –
Inglewood Elementary School (Julie Ortlieb)***

The iPad will be used in learning support classrooms at Inglewood Elementary School to enhance the use of technology in the classroom through engaging instructional activities and student accommodations. iPads will be used for learning centers, teacher modeling, partner work and individual student modifications as the iPads have endless opportunities to help students achieve academic success through multi-modality instruction.

***Family Outreach – Knapp Elementary School
(Barbara Troutman and the Leadership Team of
Knapp Elementary School)***

At Knapp Elementary School, students will have an opportunity to bring books home to share and read as a family through its “Book Nook” program. This grant provides funds to resupply the shelves with new books, continuing to provide free books to its students and families. As students read books on a variety of subjects, their overall level of background knowledge will increase. Through practice, their fluency and comprehension will also increase.

***Philadelphia Orchestra Trip –
A.M. Kulp Elementary School (Michele Cohen)***

Students from A.M. Kulp Elementary School will have the opportunity to travel and attend a 45-minute Philadelphia Orchestra concert at the Kimmel Center. This experience will teach students concert etiquette and help them relate to their own playing. Experiencing a live performance is educational as well as exciting. The students will become motivated to practice so they can imitate their role models. It will enhance instruction by being able to describe posture, sound, position and other string techniques to students so that the students have a deeper understanding of how to achieve their goals.

***Video Modeling – A.M. Kulp Elementary School
(Erin Richardson, Lauren Juliano, Christina Hibbs)***

A.M. Kulp Elementary School students that receive autistic support will use video modeling to develop and strengthen communication skills, academic performance, social and self-help skills. This teaching method speeds up the rate of learning and provides alternate traditional teaching strategies. Video modeling allows for direct and explicit social skills instruction while also enhancing their perspective taking skills.

***Black History Month/African Acrobats –
Oak Park Elementary School
(Janet Clevenstine, Bill Neilson)***

Oak Park Elementary School students will develop cultural awareness, specifically African American awareness, for the diverse population of students in its community. Students will be able to see and experience firsthand real African tradition through exciting and educational multi-cultural assemblies to the student body. These assemblies will showcase the heritage and traditions of the African people through music, dancing, acrobatics, costumes and more. Teaching and learning about the African culture will help students become more aware of diverse cultures and help close racial achievement gaps in line with the North Penn School District goals of cultural proficiency.

***Embryology – Walton Farm Elementary School
(Melissa Walsh)***

Gifted students at Walton Farm Elementary School will develop the ability to conduct scientific inquiry and develop an understanding of biology through direct experience with living things, their life cycles and their habits. Students will learn the basic needs of organisms and the different structures that serve different functions in growth, survival and reproduction by watching how a chick embryo develops from a fertile egg and eventually hatches. Students will be responsible for caring for the eggs as they develop in the incubator and witness firsthand the hatching of the chicks. Students will then take their knowledge back to the general education classroom.

***Flight and Aviation Control Systems –
Pennbrook Middle School (Nicasio Lorenzo)***

Pennbrook Middle School students learning about the theory of flight will learn the control systems used in flight thanks to the purchase of equipment and flight simulation software. The equipment will allow students to get a real life experience of flying a plane, allowing the instructor to go into more detail on aircraft design, lift vs. weight and thrust vs. drag concepts. Students will be able to learn basic controls of aircraft and fly and control different styles of aircraft in a simulator while seeing firsthand how weight and drag affects an object in motion.

***Introduction to Robotics – Pennbrook Middle School
(Andrew Hollstein)***

Students enrolled in the Introduction to Robotics course at Pennbrook Middle School will work on a project that introduces them to the world of robots thanks to the purchase of robot kits. Students will learn not only what a robot is, but how it is programmed. Through modeling, pair share and independent learning, students will explore robotics through a series of labs. Through each one of these labs, the students will gradually learn the basic parts of their robots, the components of the software program and the programming skills necessary to be successful in solving various challenges presented in class. Students will use the robots every day for 15 of the 30 class periods scheduled per marking period.

***Enhancing the Curriculum Through Mural Painting –
Penndale Middle School (John Corson)***

The walls of Penndale Middle School will be covered with a series of murals. These murals will be designed and executed by Penndale Middle School students using the elements of art and the principles of design taught through the art curriculum. These murals will be a lasting memory of the students’ educational experiences at the school and will create a sense of pride, both by the students that make the actual painting and by the students who walk the hallways every day. This is sure to bring the educational experience to life. The students will learn about improving their environment through planning and hands-on hard work.

Landscape Architecture – Northbridge School

(Marcia Lucas)

Northbridge students enrolled in art courses will have the opportunity to visit the Morris Arboretum in Philadelphia. From this visit, students will design and implement landscape design on the grounds of the Northbridge School. Northbridge students will be involved in each and every step of this project improving their art skills, math skills, and teamwork skills. A garden is a living entity and the tending and care will continue to develop and enhance the students' ownership and pride in the Northbridge School.

Prison Field Trip – North Penn High School

(David Hall)

North Penn High School students will visit the Criminal Justice Center and Eastern State Penitentiary in Philadelphia. The students will tour these facilities, see the holding cells and meet with judges and attorneys. The experience of visiting the Eastern State Penitentiary and particularly the Criminal Justice Center provides students with an opportunity that they could never otherwise experience. This provides students with a grassroots understanding of the applications as to how our criminal justice system operates.

The Joy of Reading Program – North Penn High School
(Sally Kauffman, Christine McCreary)

Funds from the NPSD Educational Foundation will be used to create a life-long enjoyment of reading for the Teen Pregnant and Parenting Support Group at North Penn High School. Members will receive an early childhood book each month to encourage reading to their child at least five minutes each day. When the student/parent graduates, they will have a small library to continue to share the joy of reading with their child. Using a digital camera, each student will also receive a "Mommy Book." The students will also receive current information on raising children.

Vocab Bowl – North Penn High School (Ellen McKee, Becky Poole, Megan Schmidt)

Eleventh grade students at North Penn High School will participate in a Vocab Bowl, a scholarly competition that is exclusively designed to challenge and delight students. The Vocab Bowl provides an opportunity for academic competition that showcases knowledge while reinforcing the importance of vocabulary to everyday life. Students then participate in both team and optional individual competitions, testing and showcasing their knowledge of vocabulary and reading/writing skills.

Field Trip to Newseum – North Penn High School
(Ellen McKee)

North Penn High School students enrolled in the Advanced Placement (AP) Language and Composition eleventh grade course will visit the Newseum and the Smithsonian Museum of American Art in Washington, DC. These museums will allow students to hone their rhetoric skills prior to the AP test and bring all the classroom materials to life.

Philadelphia Museum of Art Visits NPSD –

North Penn High School (Michael Werner)

Through two video conferencing sessions, North Penn High School art students will view artwork from the Philadelphia Museum of Art's collection. This allows students to gain access to the museum's extensive art collection to help illustrate popular topics for the Advanced Placement (AP) Art History exam. Bringing the Philadelphia Museum of Art to the North Penn School District enhances student learning of AP topics through the use of 21st Century technologies.

Nanotechnology Research – North Penn High School
(Michael Boyer)

North Penn High School students will participate in extraordinary projects in the nano-world. Nanotechnology research is performed by senior engineering academy students. Each year, ten or more student teams perform research in various arenas, from organic and natural water filtration to energy creation (piezoelectricity) and more. The NPSD Educational Foundation grant will purchase materials necessary for the students to complete their research and take their ideas and projects from conception to reality.

Autism Movement Therapy – North Penn High School
(Mary Wilson, Jaclyn Dull)

North Penn High School students with autism will participate in Autism Movement Therapy (AMT). This will be provided by two AMT certified instructors who will travel to the school twice a month for 45-minute classes. The objective of this therapy program is to incorporate movement and music in collaboration with Positive Behavior Support. The music therapy and behavior strategies used help students with autism achieve speech, language, social and academic goals and provide a "whole brain" cognitive thinking approach.

Philadelphia Museum of Art –

North Penn High School

(Megan Schmidt, Becky Poole, Ellen McKee)

Eleventh grade students at North Penn High School will tour the American art exhibits at the Philadelphia Museum of Art to broaden their understanding of American themes studied in the American Literature and American History courses. This trip will expose students to the culture of a museum, and augment their understanding of the connections between art, history and literature.

NPTV Studio Digital Mural – NPTV (Bob Gillmer)

To utilize the creativity and skill of North Penn High School digital art students, they will create a mural for the North Penn Television (NPTV) control room which doubles as a background for multiple NPTV news programs. The mural will include images of the school district, its students and the programs for which North Penn High School is known. This project will provide an opportunity for digital art students to work on a large format mural and provide the backdrop of the NPTV studio for years to come.

A Note from the Trustees:

*During this year's mid year grant cycle, the North Penn Educational Foundation awarded **20 grants** totaling **\$11,418.34**. In addition to the first grant cycle earlier this year, the Foundation awarded **47 grants** totaling **\$28,432** for the 2012-2013 school year. These grants have benefitted students at each grade level.*

Grants like the selection described below not only enhance the curriculum but provide a hands-on and innovative way for students to embrace and fully comprehend the lesson. When NPSD educators apply for these grants, some think of how this experience will affect the student in the future. Science and technology grants allow students to understand theories at the next level of thinking. Other grants allow teachers to think about how this experience will benefit students socially and vocationally. We are sure that when you read through these grant descriptions you will see how these experiences allow our students to develop into better students and citizens.

Bottom line is these grants positively affect NPSD students and your support has allowed us to do this. Thank you for your support!

***A Day of Discovery at Adventure Aquarium
Oak Park Elementary School (Geretha Billetz)***

Over thirty students in Oak Park's English Language Learning class will travel to the Adventure Aquarium in Camden, NJ to learn about sea life and marine environments. Students will participate in a 30 minute educational workshop, "What's Your Habitat?" and then spend the day exploring and learning more about animals from hippos to horsecrabs. This trip will allow ELL students to view the creatures in-person, while further developing background knowledge and conceptualization.

Elmo Document Camera***Pennfield Middle School (Denise Calabretta)***

Learning the basics of writing and editing will be much more interactive in Pennfield Middle School's English classes thanks to the Elmo Document Camera. This camera and projector displays documents, images and 3-D images onto a screen. Because of this tool, students will be able to edit a piece of writing as a class and discuss ways to improve the text. By doing this as a class, the teacher can ensure understanding of language and writing concepts.

A Day Spent with Beethoven***Gwynedd Square Elementary School &
Inglewood Elementary School (Jordan Wehr)***

Aspiring elementary school musicians will receive the chance to see where the professionals play with this trip to the Kimmel Center. Over 160 students in fourth through sixth grade from Gwynedd Square Elementary School and Inglewood Elementary School will travel to Philadelphia to hear the Philadelphia Orchestra perform a concert of Beethoven's symphonies. This experience will teach students concert etiquette and help them relate to their own playing. Experiencing a live performance is educational as well as exciting. The students will become motivated to practice so they can imitate their role models' sound, position and other string techniques.

Artist in Residence***Penndale Middle School (Marlene Adler)***

A local artist will take up a six-week residency at Penndale Middle School. During this time, 150 students will experience and engage in the entire process of creating a permanent work of art. Students will participate in the creative process by drafting their idea of what the new sculpture should look like. Once the artist decides on a design, the artist will teach students about the skills and techniques needed to create a large scale sculpture. Upon its completion, the figure will be placed on school grounds.

Roller Coaster Challenge

Pennbrook Middle School (Andrew Hollstein)

Applied Technology students will act as engineers who are building a new theme park attraction. As a team, students will have "\$250,000" to design a new roller coaster car. The new design must consider factors like design, track requirements and safety. Prototypes will be tested on a K'Nex roller coaster track and judged on appearance and performance.

Renewable Energy Activity

Pennbrook Middle School (Nicasio Lorenzo)

Students will experiment with different types of renewable energy technology through the purchase of science sets with fuel cell technology. Examples of lessons include hydrogen fuel-cell, solar and wind technology. Not only will students have an understanding on how clean energy works, they will also get first-hand experience with technology of the future.

North Penn School District Jazz Night

Pennbrook Middle School (Peter Neu)

The North Penn Music Department will host a district-wide Jazz Night in April with 300 students in grades 4 to 12 who participate in each of the district's jazz bands. Adding to the prestige of the event, a professional jazz musician and college professor will run clinics with each jazz band and perform at the concert. This unique opportunity will allow our students to rehearse with a world class educator and performer.

Math and Music

Northbridge School (Randy Mitchell)

Students at Northbridge School will learn about the application of math in daily life when they study the manufacturing of musical instruments. Included in this lesson is a tour of the world-famous Martin Guitar Factory. Two Martin guitars will also be purchased for classroom instruction.

Enriching the 6th Grade Social Studies Curriculum

Gwyn-Nor Elementary School (Annette Sailer)

Approximately 75 sixth grade students from Gwyn-Nor Elementary School will have the opportunity to interact with experts in the ancient and medieval cultures. Knowledgeable speakers will present to sixth grade classes and supplement the standard social studies curriculum. This project allows students to expand their knowledge through lecture and question and answer formats. Success will be evaluated through class discussions, questions and open-ended discovery statements.

E-Learning: Using E-Books

Inglewood Elementary School (Kimberly Kenworthy)

Students will now have access to a larger library of e-books at Inglewood Elementary School. An e-book library benefits both the school and reader. There is no worry about damage, wear or tear that you may have with a paper book. Books can also be projected and used in classroom discussion or on an e-reader for individual readers. All selected books will cover topics that enhance core curriculum and coordinate with all of NPSD's reading initiatives.

littleBits

A.M. Kulp Elementary School (Glenn Yetter)

Students in sixth grade science class will build and create new inventions while learning the basic functions of circuits through the purchase of the littleBits program. This hands-on program will challenge students to imagine, develop, design and create objects that are new, meaningful and innovative. Not only will this program be fun for students, it will also prepare students for the next level of instruction.

TV Club & TV Broadcasting

Pennbrook Middle School (Nicasio Lorenzo & Mark Robart)

Pennbrook Middle School's TV Club will be able to have more student participation and advance the student's capabilities in video/television production thanks to the purchase of new audio visual equipment and editing software. This equipment will allow students to practice a new technique and write and produce the club's first broadcasted show covering the school's news and events.

Reading to the Continents

Oak Park Elementary School (Donna Grabner)

Fifth grade students will be asked to read 20 minutes nightly. Then in class, students will chart their class' total reading minutes. Each week, the class interprets the chart and calculates the time left until reaching their goal of reading 80 minutes or more. Upon reaching their goals, students color in a piece of an airplane ticket, which will allow them to "travel" to their next destination after a three-week reading period. When the class arrives at their new destination, they will be treated to the local food and learn about that country's culture.

LitFest 2013

North Penn High School (Ellen McKee, Kevin Manero, Megan Schmidt, Liz Weizer)

Over three hundred students will work on a creative appreciation for literature in the high school curriculum through the LitFest. This event will feature several segments, including a gallery of artistic interpretations and creative book covers of the works the classes have studied; a dramatic reading competition featuring students reading their favorite passages; and a Knowledge Bowl where all sections of Honors English will be in competition against each other answering a variety of questions about literature from the curriculum.

NPHS Visits Harmony House

North Penn High School (Cheryl Doyle)

High school students enrolled in the Challenges of Aging Adults class will travel to the Harmony House, a home for adults with memory impairments in Dock Woods. During the class's four visits to the Harmony House, students will organize activities based on the social, physical and emotional needs of the residents. The trip will provide real-life interactions with individuals who have dementia and reinforce the lessons learned in class.

Students with Autism Connecting with Horses

North Penn High School (Mary Wilson)

North Penn High School students with autism will continue to develop their physical, educational and social needs by learning to ride horses at the Sebastian Riding Associates Stables. With weekly riding lessons at Sebastian's, students will learn not only the riding and grooming basics, but also work towards goals that have vocational and social benefits. After riding, the students are asked to write a journal entry about their time on the farm.

North Penn IRONKnights Triathlon

All Elementary Schools (Jason Theodore, Kathy Henderson, Deb Buckner, Scott Crayder)

In its second year, the IRONKnights Triathlon is open to all elementary students and held in June. Planned by North Penn physical education teachers, the event focuses on components of fitness and incorporating fitness techniques into weekly routine. Once a student is registered for the triathlon, the student is also registered into their school's triathlon club which will provide training calendars, a stretching guide and nutrition guide with tips and strategies during the training period. While students can practice the run and bike portion at home, this grant allows the clubs to have practice time in the pool prior to the big event.