

## Grant Helps Reed City Middle School with Technology and More by Tim Webster, Principal Reed City Middle School

Our middle school recently received a grant for approximately \$15,000 from the State of Michigan. The grant is intended to help us develop our staff professionally. The grant also required we spend the money specifically on things that are related to our school improvement plan. The following is a summary of how we spent the money to help us achieve our school improvement goals through the use of technology.

Our Math and Science departments purchased multimedia projectors and overhead document camera projectors called Elmos and were recently trained on how to use them. Multimedia projectors allow teachers to display for the class what is on the teachers computer screen. This allows the teacher to use a multitude of learning materials. If it can be shown on the teacher's computer screen, it can be shown to the entire class. You can imagine how this would open up the availability for anything off the computer or internet from video clips to information sites. We purchased eight of these units – four of them for science classrooms and four for math classrooms. As a side note, we put two similar units in social studies classrooms earlier this year using curriculum money. This gives us a total of ten multimedia projectors in our school.

An "Elmo" is a small video camera mounted above a table. Teachers can place documents below the camera and it is displayed live to the class on a screen. This live camera is also useful for demonstrations where the entire class has a great view instead of all students gathering around the teacher. All of this equipment has arrived and our teachers are currently putting these technological wonders to use.

The grant is also making professional development conferences available for our Language Arts department. They will be learning the best teaching techniques to improve our student's writing skills. There will also be some money spent for math manipulatives and the study of multiple intelligences as we try to educate all students.

We are pleased that we are able to update our school with improvements that are cutting edge and are confident that these improvements will enable us to reach a higher level of educational achievement at Reed City Middle School.