



HERMISTON SCHOOL DISTRICT 8R

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Hermiston Education Foundation awards spring grants

HERMISTON – Nine projects at five schools in the Hermiston School District received grants this spring from the Hermiston Education Foundation.

Susan Thurman and Kimberly Terry of Highland Hills Elementary received funding for all Hermiston fourth graders to visit Heritage Station Museum in Pendleton. This is the fourth year the Hermiston Education Foundation has funded the fourth grade visits to the museum.

Jackie Whitesell at Sunset Elementary received funding to provide special education students with an additional 30 minutes of targeted reading intervention. With Foundation funds, phonics development games, reading comprehension games and VersaTiles will be purchased to enhance the targeted reading intervention.

Robert Smith received funds for Armand Larive and Sandstone middle school students to participate in the Oregon Robotics Tournament and Outreach program. The funds will cover registration and material fees.

Sandra Rice of Armand Larive Middle School received funding for the Forensic Science class, an elective class taught to challenge students to collect evidence from a mock crime scene, and then analyze the evidence to solve the crime. The curriculum is reusable, but the supplies for the lab need to be restocked. Monies from the grant will be used for restocking supplies and for purchasing new mystery labs.

John Larson received funds for Hermiston High School's Freshman House Olympiad. The 260 freshman who are part of the Olympiad House will be divided into countries and will be part of a two-day athletic and academic competition between the nine "countries" represented. Funding from the Foundation will be used for materials for the flags and team shirts. The Olympics will include a parade of nations with teams displaying their "country's" flag and a closing ceremony in which students will be eligible to win prizes donated by area businesses.

The Mr. Holland Opus Foundation supplied 10 new marching drums for the band program at Armand Larive Middle School. There is still a need for drums for the marching band and drum line, so music teacher Brook White applied for a Foundation grant. Funds from the

"Serving the needs of all children with rigorous program choices, high expectations, mutual respect, and excellence in all endeavors."

Foundation will make it possible for 3 marching snares, including harnesses and cases, to be added to the program.

Betty Ishi's grant from the Foundation will bring Promethean Boards to Highland Hills Elementary fifth grade classes. Promethean Boards hold a wealth of information useful to teachers and students alike. Students will be able to locate and retrieve appropriate information, which has been shown to improve student learning and productivity.

Vecie Grant of Sandstone Middle School received funding for the Teens Who Are Listening audio book program. Audio books have been proven to show an improvement in a student's reading abilities. The focus of these books will make it possible for students with lower level reading skills to be exposed to higher level literature.

Jerry Carlson, Susan Richards, Steve Hoffert of Hermiston High School received Foundation funds towards the watershed/riparian integrated field study with aquatic science programs. The focus of the project is a hands-on field study of the Columbia River watershed and riparian zones (with aquatic science) within the local area, thereby improving student learning and appreciation for our local environment. Foundation funding will provide the water testing kits for the Field Study.

For more information about the Hermiston Education Foundation, log onto www.hermistoneducationfoundation.org.