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NEWS RELEASE

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**ARMSTRONG SCHOOL DISTRICT FOUNDATION AWARDS \$3,500 IN TEACHER GRANTS
Non-Profit Group Supports Educational Projects to Reach Nearly 1,600 Students**

RURAL VALLEY—The Armstrong School District Foundation’s educator grant program will benefit nearly 1,600 students with innovative educational opportunities this school year.

Now in its third year, the \$500 educator grant program continues to grow thanks to generous support from teacher payroll deduction, community donors and an annual golf outing.

W. Bruce Hall, ASD Foundation president, awarded seven \$500 grants to teachers at the annual back-to-school in-service August 24 at West Shamokin Jr-Sr High School. These mini-grants will enable teachers to have innovative educational projects in their classrooms which might not otherwise be funded by tax dollars.

“We are thrilled that our teachers are applying for funding for these truly outstanding educational projects,” Hall said. “We salute them for their vision.”

This summer, the foundation’s volunteer trustees reviewed a number of quality applications submitted by teachers, and chose seven recipients using rating sheets that match criteria listed in the applications. Here they are:

- 1) **District-wide:** Elementary math coaches Barb Carnahan and Sue Bowser will buy K’Nex-brand geometric toys to help about 500 K-6 students learn math concepts.
- 2) **Lenape Elementary:** Teacher Dawn Zellefrow will buy organizational skills binders to teach 30 fourth-grade students the advantages of staying organized.
- 3) **Ford City High School:** Teacher Jan Silvis will use the Connections Curriculum from the Dibble Institute to teach 75 ninth-grade family and consumer science students strategies to diffuse bullying, increase effective communication and foster positive relationships.
- 4) **West Shamokin High School:** Teacher Karen Risinger will use her grant to conduct an Organic Gardening lesson. This will benefit 60 eighth-grade environmental science students.
- 5) **Lenape Elementary:** Teacher Mary Ellen Keeney will use an Accelerated Reader program to benefit 260 second and third grade students.
- 6) **West Hills Primary School:** Teacher Melinda Rearic and a team of teachers will bring about a Butterfly Lab that will benefit 650 K-3 students.
- 7) **Ford City High School:** Teacher Shannon Johns will start a Global Positioning System project to teach math concepts to many seventh through twelfth grade learning support students.

Last year, the ASD Foundation awarded eight mini-grants. The year before, the foundation awarded four grants in the inaugural year of the grant program. The foundation is a non-profit arm of the school district dedicated to expanding educational opportunities for youth.

Future goals of the ASD Foundation—if financial support is available—include starting a district-wide student jazz band, supporting a local astronomy observatory in which students get priority telescope scheduling, creating an activity center in the district, supporting an enrichment summer school, and providing support for artist-in-residence programs, among many others.

For more information about the ASD Foundation, please visit www.asd.k12.pa.us/asdfoundation.

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