

**ARMSTRONG SCHOOL DISTRICT FOUNDATION AWARDS \$4,000 IN TEACHER GRANTS
Non-Profit Group Supports Educational Projects to Reach 1,200 Students**

FORD CITY—The non-profit Armstrong School District Foundation announced today that it is awarding \$4,000 in Educator Innovation Grants, which will enable innovative learning experiences for nearly 1,200 Armstrong School District students this school year.

Educators from across the Armstrong School District submitted numerous quality applications by the June deadline. In the end, the volunteer Armstrong School District Foundation Trustees decided to fund four projects. A team of trustees reviewed and scored each application on a multi-point scale, with criteria matching the grant application questions.

Here are the recipients and their projects:

District-Wide Project for Grades 4-6	Project: <i>Polydrons: A Math Teaching Tool</i> Amount: \$2,000 Benefits: Benefits approximately 1,000 students in grades 4-6 in all elementary schools in the district, with a hope to share it with some junior high-level students. Lead Teacher: N. Sue Bowser Details: Students will learn the difficult concepts of spatial visualization and surface area with class sets of polydrons, which are hand-held geometric shapes that teach math, dimensional geometry, design and spatial awareness.
Grade-Wide Project at Lenape Elementary School	Project: <i>Steppingstones That Lead to Remarkable Readers</i> Amount: \$1,000 Benefits: Benefits approximately 115 students at Lenape Elementary School in Grade 2. Lead Teacher: Toni Taladay Details: Students will develop a sense of ownership over their learning as they design, construct and plant their own garden within a courtyard area. They will read about plant growth and the butterfly life cycle, and also experiment with and manipulate those specimens to self-discover the concepts about which they have read.
Classroom Project at West Shamokin Jr-Sr High School	Project: <i>Exploring Biodiversity: A Quadrat Field Study</i> Amount: \$500 Benefits: Benefits 54 eighth-grade students at West Shamokin Jr-Sr High School. Lead Teacher: Karen Risinger Details: This project encourages higher-level scientific thinking skills and technology use while exploring the biodiversity of living organisms, with a culminating visit to the Crooked Creek Environmental Learning Center.
Classroom Project at Lenape Elementary School	Project: <i>Differentiated Learning Centers</i> Amount: \$500 Benefits: Benefits 23 second grade students at Lenape Elementary School. Lead Teacher: Erika Hogan Details: Students will use learning centers (activities and games) to reach the goals they set in fluency, main idea/detail, inferencing, fact/opinion, sequencing, addition, subtraction, problem-solving, fractions, multiplication, geometry, and other reading and math skills.

The Armstrong School District Foundation is a 501c3 non-profit dedicated to expanding educational opportunities for Armstrong School District youth. Since fall 2005, the Armstrong School District Foundation has awarded nearly \$37,000 in educator grants. These grants have given teachers the means to do innovative programs benefiting more than 7,550 students to date.

The money for these grants come to the 501c3 nonprofit Armstrong School District Foundation from employee payroll deductions, from community donors, and from an annual golf outing at Kittanning Country Club held each June. Future goals of the ASD Foundation—if financial support is available—include starting a district-wide student jazz band, supporting a summer enrichment 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.