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NEWS RELEASE

CONTACT: Chris Garritano, ASD Multi-Media Technician, cgarritano@asd.k12.pa.us

**ARMSTRONG SCHOOL DISTRICT FOUNDATION AWARDS \$8,500 IN TEACHER GRANTS  
Non-Profit Group Supports Educational Projects to Reach Over 2,000 Students**

KITTANNING —The non-profit Armstrong School District Foundation announced today that it is awarding \$8,500 in Educator Innovation Grants, which will enable innovative learning experiences for more than 2,000 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 nine 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:

**Sue Bowser School-wide Grant \$2000- 1,200 4th-8th grade math students**

The grant will aid in the development of a Jeopardy type game based on items from the PSSA tests. It will be used to identify items which need review and motivate students to learn the information in a game format.

**Erin Scahill Grade Level Grant \$1000 Approx. 45 10-12th grade students and 160 elementary at West Hills**

The main goal of this grant is to challenge high school students to create children's books and share reading experiences with elementary students, thus creating a connection between elementary students and older students who enjoy reading. (Title: Read. Write. Dream.)

**Cathie Reefer Grade Level Grant \$1000 300 Music students West Shamokin**

The grant will allow music students to explore and create their own compositions through the use of technology. Students will be able to compose and record original music incorporating "layers" of instrumental parts and vocals. (Title: Music Recording Using Technology)

**Leslie Vandegrift Grade Level Grant \$1000 150 Kindergarten students West Hills Primary**

This grant will integrate the use of Smart Boards with kindergarten students to bring together work and play with kinesthetic and tactile collaborative activities which provide dynamic, interactive, multi-touch, multi-user learning opportunities based on state standards.

**Melinda Rearic Grade Level Grant \$1000 156 Kindergarten students West Hills Primary**

The grant will help develop materials and learning centers for kindergarten with core content in areas like food chains, how plants and animals live, energy and technology. The children will benefit from synergistic connections utilizing cross curricular dynamics to entice curious minds and spark big imaginations. (Kindergarten Science Events)

**Dawn Zellefrow Grade Level Grant \$1000 60 4th graders Lenape Elementary**

The grants uses Versa Tiles in the areas of Math and Science for fourth graders to build students critical thinking, problem solving and reading information skills. The program allows for self-correcting so students see immediately if their answers are correct. (Title: Versatiles in Math and Science)

**Karen Risinger Classroom Level Grant \$500 39 Science 7 CP Students West Shamokin**

The goal of this project is to integrate higher-level scientific thinking skills science 7 CP students with technology while exploring the rock cycle and the impact of these resources on our everyday life. Students will observe analyze and identify rock types through lab exploration and develop an interactive power point. (Title: Interactive Rock Cycle)

**Vicki Walters Classroom Level Grant \$500 40-45 4th grade students Elderton Elementary**

The goal of this project is to use a variety of materials to help make the geography of our country "come to life" with interactive and hands on learning. And to have students learn how and why geographic regions have a social and economic impact on the ways in which people live and work.

(Title: Making US Geography Come to Life)

**Leslie Vandegrift Classroom Level Grant \$500** 150 Kindergarten students West Hills Primary

This grant titled “The Wonderful World of Wordless Books” is designed to allow kindergarten students to use their imaginations to create their own stories . The Wordless Books will combine a child’s love to tell stories to stimulate and develop their writing and reading skills. (title: The Wonderful World of Wordless Books)