

Foundation awards grants to Williamsville schools

The Williamsville Education Foundation Inc. has announced grant awards totaling nearly \$6,200 to fund 13 proposals that will enhance learning opportunities for students attending 11 Williamsville schools.

According to Trey Measer, president of the foundation, the mini-grant program supports educators' efforts to improve and enhance the learning environment for Williamsville students.

"The grant proposals we receive and fund demonstrate the creative and innovative work teachers are doing to engage their students in learning," Measer said. "Especially now, under difficult economic conditions, these grants help fund teaching tools that the regular budget simply cannot accommodate."

This year, the foundation received 45 grant requests from teachers across the school district. Grants were awarded to Country Parkway, Maple East and Heim elementary schools to purchase Apple iPads, while Dodge Elementary received hand puppets for its art program.

East High School received funds to purchase a digital camera for the technology department, and South High purchased a new document camera for the math department with its award.

Each of the four middle schools also received grants, with awards funding multimedia headsets for the computer technology program at Heim Middle; a wind energy education program at Mill Middle; ceramic art tools and accessories for the art department at Transit Middle; and woodsman compasses for the seventh-grade social studies class at Casey Middle.

Also, the foundation will fund a fall 2011 Underground Railroad



Dodge Elementary School art teacher Thom Knab teaches art history to Julianne Ho, left, and Riley Shaw using puppets he customized. The puppets, representing Grandma Moses and Georgia O'Keeffe, were provided as part of a grant by the Williamsville Education Foundation Inc.

Tour for middle and high school students who are English as a second language learners.

An additional award will help sponsor the district's annual Poetry, Arts, and Music Festival, which will be held Sunday, April 10, at East High School. An award also helped benefit the district's annual Visual Arts Exhibit, which was held Saturday and Sunday at

the University at Buffalo.

The mini-grant program was established in 2001 and distributes money, generally up to \$500 per award, to teachers to help support class projects, programs or activities that support student learning.

"The foundation is working to expand its fundraising efforts in order to increase the number of

grants awarded and further advance academic achievement," Measer said.

Since the program began in 2001, the foundation has provided more than 60 mini-grants totaling more than \$26,000.

For more information about the Williamsville Education Foundation Inc., visit www.wedf.org.