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## **INSTRUCTIONAL GRANT SPECIAL EDITION**

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Each year, the district awards instructional grants to those staff members who have completed applications approved by the Instructional Grant Review Committee. In December 2008, there were three instructional grants approved with awards available up to \$1,000. The committee was looking for proposals that addressed key district objectives of globalization, reading, technology, visualization of math and differentiation of instruction.

**B**oght Hills principal **Kim Greiner** and guidance counselor **Sari VanSleet** received \$1,000 for a project to create a lending library of parenting resources including books and DVD's for staff, students and parents. These materials will provide support and models of good parenting practices as well as develop sensitivity to and an appreciation for others whose culture is different from their own. The resources will also be used to enhance lessons taught by classroom teachers and the school counselor.

**S**haker High School foreign language teachers **Ann Misir** and **Maria Holland** received \$725 to create classroom video connections with Spanish-speaking countries using Skype. Conferences are planned with classes in Chile, El Salvador, Spain and Mexico. The sessions will include topics such as holidays and social

and cultural events. It is hoped that similar connections can be created for students in German, Russian and French classes as well.

**M**ark Kaercher, IRP Math teacher at Shaker High School, received approval for a grant in the amount of \$1,000 for materials to develop a lab for the mathematical study of electronic devices and circuits and their components. In the lab, students will build series and parallel circuits, which include resistors, diodes, transistors, and capacitors, providing them with a practical hands-on learning opportunity in the field of electronics. They will also measure resistance, voltage and current with a multimeter and compare those values with the results obtained from mathematical formulas.

**For the 2009-2010 school year, we will again be soliciting proposals from our faculty. We encourage all faculty to submit an application for a grant. Details will be forthcoming.**

Committee Members: Hope Dils, Maria Holland and Gary Cimorelli, tri-chairpersons; standing members: Elizabeth McNamara, Dawn Savery, Dave Arnone, Jerry Steele, Jennifer Scism, Laura Breen, Jill Regan, Nicole Sisto, Amanda Hind, Elizabeth Carroll and Jennifer Phoenix; Joe Corr, ex-officio; and previous year grant recipient John Slyer.

We thank those who submitted grants and committee members for the extra time and dedication.