GATEWAY REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
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Gateway Education Foundation funds 7 projects totaling $5K

Huntington – At it's September Board of Directors Meeting, the Gateway Education Foundation approved 7 applications for funding from teachers, in awards totaling nearly $5,000.

The projects support literacy, mathematics, fine arts, mindfulness, and the annual musical for Chester Elementary School.

Chester Elementary School will hold their 4th annual school-wide musical next spring, with all 4 funded by the Gateway Education Foundation. This year's offering is "Bebop with Aesop" and the $650 grant will pay for the music/copyrights of the play, props, costumes and bussing to dress rehearsal. The primary goal of the musical is to give all students the opportunity to engage in a real-world experience performing on stage, creating sets and learning music. It promotes 21st century skills such as individual and group accountability, communication, creativity, interpersonal and collaborative skills, and self-direction.

Chester and Littleville K-2 students, and their families, will be invited to a math game night in October. Presenter Mike Flynn, director of the Math Leadership Program at Mount Holyoke College, will lead the event, designed to help parents help their children with math. This *Funds for Learning* grant of $800 will cover the cost of the parent training, family math games, refreshments and child care.

STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) storyteller Diane Edgecomb will come to Littleville and Chester Elementary Schools to kick-off both schools annual reading challenges, in a themed event tied to the new STEM specialist working at both schools. The two grants total $1392 and will cover the storyteller plus new books for children at family literacy nights.

Music teachers Beth Guertin and Renee Mosher will receive $300 to purchase 20 new tuners, which will substantially reduce the amount of time it takes band students to tune their instruments at the beginning of class or lessons. The project will help instrumental music students in grades 5-12 play with better pitch and intonation, producing a better quality of sound and improve their musicianship.

Adjustment Counselor Joyce Hanousek will offer a series of activities at Chester Elementary School to help students explore a variety of leisure acdtivities that promote relaxation and mindfulness and build social interactions with peers. Activities will run from October through June and include gardening, multi-media crafts, fiber arts and jewelry making. The $325 grant will cover materials needed for the activities.

Finally, elementary art teacher Amy Thornton has big plans for her students: bringing the Pots on Wheels program to Gateway. Local potters will work with students in grades 3 – 5 to create a pottery cup. "Pots on Wheels" will do a follow-up visit where students will visit the truck and swap the cup they made with another one (a "cuplatch"). The artist will demonstrate different techniques that were used to make different pieces and discuss sharing and collaboration between artists. The Gateway Education Foundation awarded Thornton's request for $1,500, representing half of the cost of the program. She will seek the balance of funding through the Gateway towns' local cultural councils.

"On behalf of the Board of the Foundation, we are pleased to support these wonderful projects that will bring special activities and opportunities to Gateway students," said Shirley Winer, President of the Board of Directors. "We hope the public will value these projects as much as we do, and will continue to support the Foundation's mission through fundraisers and donations."

The Gateway Education Foundation formed in 2011 to enhance the educational opportunities of the students in the Gateway Regional School District. To date, the Foundation has raised funding through donations from staff, parents, alumni and community members, as well as small grants, fundraisers and business sponsorships.

Donations are tax deductible and may be made at any time of the year. Online donations are accepted on the Foundation's website (www.GatewayEducationFoundation.org). Checks made payable to the Gateway Education Foundation may be mailed to 12 Littleville Rd., Huntington, MA 01050.

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