



## **NEWS** from the Seven Dreams Foundation

7644 55<sup>th</sup> Avenue North, New Hope, MN 55427  
Phone (763)504-4088

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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### **Teachers' innovative ideas enrich students' experiences in Robbinsdale Area Schools**

**New Hope, Minn. (April 29, 2009)** — A number of Robbinsdale Area Schools' educators had their wishes granted this spring when the Seven Dreams Foundation awarded them grants for the 2009-2010 school year.

The Foundation, consisting of community members, parents and educational professionals from the seven cities that comprise Robbinsdale area schools, annually awards grants to educators whose proposals are innovative and involve community resources, skills and experiences. From gaming to wood working to making music, with reading, writing and arithmetic added in, these grants facilitate unique teaching methods that enrich student learning.

Lucinda Jenner's grant, "Performing Arts Enrichment: Band Beyond the Classroom," will benefit Honors band members districtwide, who have to audition annually, by challenging their music, leadership and responsibility skills. Each year since 2000, these students create a CD recording and perform throughout the community. This grant will help them to grow both in scope and performance and to commission an original composition.

Learning math will be more engaging and fun for students at the Highview Alternative Program, Plymouth Middle School and Noble Elementary School with the grants they received.

Highview students will be gaming with "Games Galore," which uses mind-building modeling systems and construction sets to teach math, science and art to all levels. Highview's Angela Beugen also plans to form a "Games Galore" group to foster self-esteem and team cooperation.

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Technology will partner with math to make learning fun for students at Plymouth Middle school this fall. Elizabeth Vu's grant will purchase three SMART Boards (large, touch-controlled screens) and three Qwizdom clickers that work with a computer and projector, allowing teachers and students to gather and sort data.

To combat learning loss during the summer months, Carrie Casey, Noble Elementary School, won a grant to continue offering accelerated math and reader computerized programs to students for two hours per week in June, July and August. Participating students would also receive teacher support during this SMART (Summer Math and Reading Teams) program.

For students who struggle to read, listening to the words while they read can help the learning process. The grant that Sandburg Middle School's Dawn Nelson won provides Playaways, which are preloaded, portable audio books, for reading and Special Ed students and teachers to use to build their skills by immersion in language and text. Speakers would be added for group listening. Because Sandburg is closing, the Playaways will be placed with three teachers, one at Plymouth Middle School and two at Robbinsdale Middle School.

To foster better reading skills, you have to offer students books they want to read. That is the contention of Liz Patrick and Jane Gossard, Plymouth Middle School. Their grant will go toward purchasing rigorous, high-interest books that are relevant to students' lives.

Learning is a building process, and the students at Plymouth Middle School enrolled in the Industrial Technology curriculum will experience that when they use the CarveWright Wood Working tool along with their computers to design a complex wood carving, problem-solve and then execute their detailed plan. Al Lysne, PMS, contends this tool will enhance student computer, design, math and problem-solving skills.

Peer tutors can be effective in helping students improve their grades and study skills. Jennifer Hall's grant will train interested juniors and seniors at Armstrong High School to become peer tutors to freshmen during study halls and after-school sessions. The tutors will gain leadership skills, and both tutor and student will build relationships.

This year's Progress and Innovative Grant recipients will be presented at a reception on Wednesday, May 13, from 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. in the Board Room of the Educational Service Center, 4148 Winnetka Ave. No., New Hope. The Foundation's annual meeting will follow the reception.

The Seven Dreams Foundation is always seeking fresh ideas, volunteers to serve as board members, or on committees, and donations. To find out more, visit our website at [www.SevenDreamsFoundation.org](http://www.SevenDreamsFoundation.org), or call 763-504-4088.