



2011 - 2012 Endowment Fund Grants

Extended Day Program

Geared toward students in grades 1-5 district-wide who are partially proficient on NJASK or district assessments. All students in grades 1-5 who have not demonstrated proficiency toward meeting the New Jersey and Common Core standards will be invited to participate. If there is space, those students who are barely proficient will also be invited, in an effort to make them more secure in their skills. Students and their parents will sign a participation contract to insure consistent attendance. Program would run two days per week from 3-4:30 PM in each elementary school. Each day would begin with a period of game play and snack followed by small group instruction. This is not a homework help initiative, but a skills-based, enrichment program designed to supplement the work being done during the school day. Students would be divided into two levels; primary (grades 1-3) and intermediate (grades 4-5) for this work. 35 minutes would be devoted to leveled guided mathematics instruction and hands-on learning, and 40 minutes would be dedicated to language arts literacy activities. Camelot Mathematics has been identified and recommended to promote a manipulative rich, non-computer based environment that can be personalized to individual student needs. Interdisciplinary, problem-based tasks will underlie the language arts literacy activities. Students will demonstrate their knowledge through culminating products each marking period. An individual student improvement plan will be used to monitor progress.

LCJSMS Forensics Debate Team

This program would not only enrich the current forensics cycle, it would provide students at all levels with the opportunity to develop public speaking and research. Students who participate in a debate club will increase their communication skills, advance critical thinking and reasoning skills, adapt to and consider a variety of audiences, learn improved study and research skills, become familiar with current societal issues and receive training for high school, college and future opportunities. This club would meet on a weekly/bi-weekly basis, after-school, to research, prepare, and be coached by mentors for upcoming competitions.

Hybrid Model for Virtual School Pilot

Pilot a virtual learning system at Summit High School by preparing a series of instructional podcasts across 5 different subject areas. This is an opportunity to highlight the excellence of our teaching staff and make their innovative approaches to instruction more widely available to others and immediately useful for their students. Teachers will be able to use these video lessons as reinforcement or to explore the “flipped” instructional model—the emerging practice of content introductions in a virtual environment with discussion and questions taking place within the classroom the following day.

21 Century Classroom

All nine LCJSMS Language Arts classrooms will be transformed into collaborative learning environments. This enables the ‘21st century learning model’ in which our teachers have been trained to be complete. This grant will empower teachers to facilitate active, student-centered learning in addition to providing the best options for small group lessons. Please see the video below for a glimpse into what this grant will provide for all of our LCJSMS students.

On-line Zoology

An on-line elective course in *zoology* will be created and offered at SHS. This innovative vehicle delivering curricula to students via Google Drive, Camtasia tutorials and other resources will enhance 21st century skills by providing an option for students to work outside the structure of the “normal” school day.

College Specialist at SHS

This new position at SHS, “College Specialist”, is being created to enhance the guidance department’s effort to place students into colleges and universities that recognize our students’ full potential and achievements by opening the doors wider at an ever-broader range of colleges and universities. Internally this specialist will support the counselors in their role as college advisors working with both students and parents. Externally the specialist will promote and market SHS to college admissions officers around the country and foster long-term relationships between these colleges and SHS.

Science Research Coordinator

Designed as the second phase in the creation of a robust *Science Research Program*, the new ‘Science Research Coordinator’ at SHS will serve as liaison between our research students (currently 20) and local science-related professionals who will serve as mentors. Ideally, by establishing relationships with outside contacts, the research coordinator will enable us to take the program to the next level and put SHS on track with the country’s most successful high school science research programs.