

Winchester High School PFA Grants 2011-2012

- French Concert in April
 - Concert for all French students, featuring Bala Kouyate, a balafon player from Mali, complementing the French 2 & 3 students' study unit on francophone Africa. Music students are also invited.
- New Student Lunch Group
 - Presented by the Guidance and Counseling department, provides a supportive lunch group for new students to discuss the successes and struggles of life as a new student and helps to ease the transition into the WHS community.
- Robotics Club
 - Supports the work of the club, now expanded to include more female students, as they plan to build a 120 lb robot and continue working on the design of autonomous robots, using engineering, teamwork, and computer programming.
- Large Scale Paper and Markers
 - Used to facilitate student discussion and mapping out ideas on large sheets of paper in certain English classes.
- Early Music/Renaissance Dancing Workshop for Humanities Class
 - Two-hour workshop by Tufts University Early Music Ensemble in instrumental music and dance from the Renaissance period, played on historically accurate instruments from the era.
- Sound System for Humanities Class
 - Replace the current iPod doc system for playing music during Humanities classes with a better system that will improve sound quality and intrude less on neighboring classrooms.
- Italian Program Service Project – Italian Home for Children
 - Supports the students in their annual toy and gift drive for the Italian Home for Children. Today, the Home's focus is providing residential and day treatment services for emotionally disturbed children of all nationalities. WHS has supported this program for over 25 years.
- Foreign Language Awards Night
 - Supports the annual awards night when high achieving students are inducted into the Foreign Language Honor Societies and recognized for outstanding achievement.
- Italian Exchange
 - Provided funds for a welcome breakfast and other social activities sponsored to host a group of students and teachers for two weeks in the fall.

- Art Supplies for Drawing, Painting and Encaustic Painting
 - Supplies materials so that drawing & painting classes can construct their own canvases and explore different supports/surfaces. Also, funds materials for junior & senior honors art students to learn encaustic painting (wax painting) technique used in ancient Egypt and Rome.
- Art Supplies for Puppet Making
 - Provides funds for clay, fabric, print making materials and other supplies needed so that 150 students can make puppets in art.
- Textbooks and CD's for American Studies class
 - Reimbursement for "America's Musical Landscape" textbooks and 5 CD sets so that each student can have a textbook instead of handouts. Books were purchased by the teacher at a significant discount online and made available to students.
- American Studies Field Trip Lincoln Center Tour
 - Reimbursement for a tour of the Lincoln Center that was booked when the original tour of Carnegie Hall was canceled at the last minute. Tour included a visit to Avery Fisher Hall, the Metropolitan Opera House, and the American Ballet Theatre.
- Cocoa in the Library
 - The new school librarian, Amy Fiske, enthusiastically endorsed the continuation of the longstanding cocoa in the library tradition. She writes of how "the hot drinks in the library help the students relax, especially on stressful days. It has made the library a gathering place, an intellectual and social center of the entire school. The hot drinks invite interaction and conversation, which, in turn, has made the library an interactive, collaborative learning space. In terms of library culture in a school, it really doesn't get much better than that. This strong culture serves us well as we transition to a collaborative 21st century learning space."
- Document Cameras for Math classes
 - Document cameras allow for instant projection of a book or object upon a wall, like a modern version of an overhead projector. In math class, it can be used to show a student's homework problem during class discussion, much faster than transferring/writing work onto a board, improving productivity in the classroom, and making presentations more active.
- Color Printer for Physics Lab
 - A state-of-the-art physics lab uses all-in-one computers that were funded by the WFEE last year, making student lab groups smaller, and learning more accessible. However, thy system needs a color printer so students can print graphs or spreadsheets with each lab.

- Computers for the Paperless Classroom
 - Continued funding of Eric Lister’s Paperless classroom in British Literature. The computers allow for a one-to-one student ratio that engages students in interactive learning, collaboration and independent work. Computers are cost-effective refurbished Dell laptops with 5-year warranties.
- Supplies for Sculpture and Ceramics Classes
 - Funds the purchase of 10-15 coping saws and blades and two drills used in sculpture, a program that Mr. Lannon hopes will grow into “the best that it can be.” This grant also covers supplies for the Ceramics work using the Raku kiln.
- Graphic Novels for Three Classes
 - Funds graphic novels that will supplement the high school English curriculum, an effective way to get struggling readers engaged in reading and ideas. This art form “can allow visual learners to access the ideas being discussed and analyze them on a high level.”
- Learning Center Supplies
 - Various supplies for the Learning Center, including subscriptions, art materials, calculators, headphones, etc.
- Freshman Advisory Program funding
 - Funds a budget for discretionary allowance for volunteer advisors of the freshman advisory program, providing games, materials, snacks, and other supplies that will support and enhance the experience.
- Freshman Advisory Volunteer Acknowledgements
 - Provide a \$25 thank you gift to the 20 volunteers who launched the program this year.
- Pen Tablets for Art and computer animation
 - Two pen tablets for the Mac lab and large paper for printing to support art, photography, and computer animation/Photoshop projects.
- Freshman History “Silk Road Bazaar”
 - Funds a simulation activity in which students place themselves in the role of traders and merchants on the Silk Road, as the culminating activity of the Silk Roads unit. Funds will supply food, music and any additional items needed to make the experience more authentic.
- Food classes Mini Fridge and small appliances
 - Replace a broken mini fridge for the cooking classes, and also replaces small cooking appliances, tools.
- Forensics mannequin
 - Forensics classes use mock crime scenes to collect and analyze evidence, conduct hair and fiber analysis labs, and deduce what took place. An authentic forensics mannequin allows for a more realistic and rigorous evidence-gathering research experience.

- Living History Day
 - Funds a small honorarium for 8-10 speakers from the community and beyond on various historical topics. Speakers talk to each block of the day about their life experiences. Previous speakers have included a Vietnam veteran, a young woman who returned from a tour of duty in Iraq, a writer whose father was a victim of Hollywood blacklisting in the 50's, a photojournalist who spent time in Iran immediately after the fall of the Shah in 1979, and etc. The grantee reports “students were riveted.”
- Monthly breakfasts for one class at a time, rotating through the year
- iPad Teacher Evaluations to enable a more effective teacher review process
- Zumba and yoga classes—offered weekly, free for all students
- Scholarship funds to help students in need participate in field trips