



The Foundation for Tigard Tualatin Schools
smart kids. smart community.

6960 SW Sandburg St. • Tigard, Oregon 97223

info@foundation4smarkids.org

telephone: 503.431.4024

fax: 503.431.4047

The Foundation for Tigard Tualatin Schools Awards Three Innovative Grants for 2007

The Foundation for Tigard Tualatin Schools is proud to announce the recipients of the Innovative Grants program. All the applicants should be proud of their ideas and the efforts put forth during this process. We thank those who submitted applications and we hope to partner with these teachers in the future.

The Foundation will award three grants totaling over \$6,800 for 2007. These teachers seek to strengthen their students' skills through innovative tools to be used in and outside of the classroom. The Foundation believes these models can be replicated in other classrooms and can be sustained for future students without substantial replacement funds. Please join The Foundation in congratulating the following winners:

**Rick Holmes, International Baccalaureate Physics Teacher
Tigard High School
Project Name: WebAssign**

WebAssign is a powerful online homework system designed to improve student understanding and performance in science and math. WebAssign will provide instant feedback to students. Students that are struggling receive real-time coaching while students that are excelling can be challenged by attempting more difficult problems.

WebAssign can also be utilized as a test-trial for implementing an online homework system at Tigard High School. This could be the beginning of a cultural change in the way homework is treated, making it more efficient and effective.

**Robert Koehler, Orchestra Teacher
Tuality Middle School
Project Name: Sound Bites**

A web-based tool will be designed for music students to utilize when practicing at home with their instruments. Often students are unsure if they are playing the notes correctly when away from the classroom. Sound Bites will help teachers create their own web pages thereby providing an online resource with which to compare their home practicing.

This project will help speed the learning of required music, increase the pace of the class, and help to build positive self esteem as students learn more successfully.

Robyn Beisell, 3rd Grade Teacher
Alberta Rider Elementary School
Project Name: Amazing Math Packs

Amazing Math Packs is a system that utilizes games and real life activities to advance math concepts. Backpacks are designed and filled with games focused on one area or strand of math. Backpacks are designed for families to enjoy at home. The program generates the idea that math can be fun! Students will develop confidence in using math vocabulary, manipulating concepts and talking about math within their family. Parents will gain hands-on experience about the types of math required in third grade.

All families, including ELL households, can participate. Instructions for each activity are provided in three languages. Each backpack includes games in a range of ability levels, from easy to challenging. Funding will go towards the purchase of the backpack materials and the teacher stipends for creating the programs and translating the activities into Spanish and Vietnamese.

Congratulations to the recipients! Once again The Foundation sincerely thanks the Joel Family for their generous contribution. Without their support this tremendous opportunity for our teachers and community would not be possible.

Board of Directors
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