



Reading Education Foundation

2013 GRANT AWARDS

REF is proud to award \$49,084 in grants this year, nearly double from last year! Thanks to the generous sponsorship of the Reading Co-operative bank, we are able to meet several exciting requests. Grants include:



ALL SCHOOL, COMMUNITY GRANTS

Evening Program – Musical Healing After the Holocaust, with the Terezin Music Foundation – 7th through 12th graders and Reading Community: A special program funded in connection with the [Reading Cultural Council](#) for middle and high school students and the community. Program reinforces the power of music through the story of a traveling orchestra that performed for Holocaust survivors after their liberation from German concentration camps. Attendees will watch the documentary film [“Creating Harmony: The Displaced Persons’ Orchestra at St. Ottilien”](#), an account of this orchestra of holocaust survivors that was directed by the young Leonard Bernstein in post WWII Germany. The film will be accompanied by a panel discussion with Mark Ludwig, Director of [Terezin Music Foundation](#), Holocaust survivor Edgar Krasa, and Dr. Anna Ornstein, a world renown psychotherapist and survivor of Auschwitz. This program illuminates a time in history often untaught as well as the unfathomable challenges facing survivors in the aftermath of liberation.

Professional Development Training for Reading Specialists in Symbol Imagery Curriculum – impacting Kindergarten through 8th Grades:

Teachers will be trained in the [Lindamood-Bell “Seeing Stars”](#) Symbol Imagery program. Symbol Imagery skills strengthen student reading, spelling and fluency, and benefit other curriculum areas by expanding tools for learning through imagery-language connections. Symbol Imagery curriculum will be applicable to all students, but in particular to children with

language-based learning disabilities and those who have failed to come to grade level reading standards using the Wilson Reading Program (currently used in RPS).

HIGH SCHOOL GRANTS

Laboratory Equipment to support Lab-based Physics for 11th Graders:

An exciting grant to award, RMHS will install [Vernier](#) equipment to support student-centered physics instruction using computer-based laboratories. The lab curriculum is extensible, adaptable and applicable to students at all levels with multiple learning styles, and will enable students to “do” science, constructing their own knowledge through experimentation, while developing interpersonal, self-directional, and collaboration skills from working in small groups — all key elements of 21st century learning skills. This grant is made possible by an \$11,840 sponsorship by the [Reading Co-operative Bank](#), a strong community partner and supporter of cutting-edge education in our schools.

Finch Robot for Computer Science Program: This interactive education tool will be used in the Computer Science classroom to support over 140 students who are enrolled in computer science programming courses. Studies show that students prefer programming a robot to a computer, especially in introductory classes, and [Finch Robots](#) have been designed for programming classes like those at RMHS; supporting varied learning styles and talents while offering a rich learning experience.

Start up Support for RMHS Robotics Team: The first RMHS Robotics Team has over 25 students who will build a robot that will compete at the Boston FRC Regional Competition. Mentored by professional engineers from Kurrig and Textron, the Robotics Team is learning to use sophisticated hardware and software to build and compete robots of their own design. The [FRC program](#) gives students a deeper opportunity to engage in extensive, challenging and authentic STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Math) work outside the classroom, offering the challenge of a “Varsity Sport for the Mind™” where, like the real world, there are strict rules, limited resources and time limits.

Connecting the World, RMHS Foreign Language Department: The purchase of 10 iPads will round out a complete classroom set to help French and Spanish students establish real world connections with students from other countries.

MIDDLE SCHOOL GRANTS

Electric Piano Lab for Parker music students: The electric piano will enhance 6th and 7th grade music classes. The visual, aural and kinesthetic aspects of playing a piano strongly support the understanding of pitches, chords, intervals, and musical form – all topics of the general music curriculum for 6th and 7th grades. The ability to use a piano also allows for creativity, collaboration and active learning.

Explore Learning Website Membership for Parker Science: 8th grade science students will explore different science concepts using computer simulations and the online resources of the [ExploreLearning](#) website. These inquiry-based lessons allow students to collaborate with each other in order to learn difficult science concepts, like Earth and Space science, with state-of-the-art technology.

Over Two Dozen iPads and iPad minis for Math, Art, SPED and LLD programs at Parker: iPads are becoming an important educational tool, supporting a broad range of curricula and subject matter. In addition to traditional Math and Art programs, REF is purchasing iPads for SPED students and the LLD program to enhance special needs learning through assistive technology.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL GRANTS

Ukulele Lessons for Students at Wood End and Birch Meadow Schools: Through this purchase of 30 ukuleles, 2nd through 5th grade students will have the opportunity to study music reading and participate in ensemble and solo repertoire on a stringed instrument. Students will work in pairs and receive instruction on Ukulele technique and note reading. This will give students the needed experience and skills to explore opportunities on other string-family instruments.

Reading & Writing behind the scenes with Dr. Ralph Fletcher: Teacher Workshop at Joshua Eaton. [Dr Fletcher](#) is an expert on the writing process and will be a visiting author at Joshua Eaton, meeting with 3rd through 5th graders to discuss his writing. REF funding will cover an additional one-hour professional development workshop on writing instruction with the teachers. This program builds on the Joshua Eaton writing initiative, based on the Teacher's College Reading and Writing Project at Columbia University, a program supported by REF in a previous grant.

16 MP3 Players to support 1st Graders in the Daily Five Reading Program at Joshua Eaton. The [Daily Five](#) framework fosters literacy independence in the elementary grades. One of the Daily Five components is "listen to reading" in order to hear appropriate rate and intonation, as well as foster a rich language vocabulary. Audio books can be downloaded and listened to by many more students on more modern and versatile technology than is currently present in the classrooms.