

# 2006 and 2007 Rural Education Mini-Grants

**Awarded by:**

**The NYS Rural Education  
Advisory Committee**

***Also included:***

***The abstract of a research project  
commissioned by the Rural Education  
Advisory Committee on Assessing Early  
Childhood Care and Education Capacity  
in Rural New York***

---

**Published by:  
The NYS Legislative Commission  
on Rural Resources**

**January 2008**

**Senator George H. Winner, Jr., Chair**



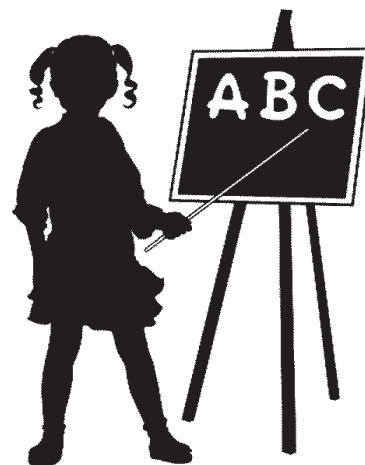
# The Rural Education Advisory Committee

The Rural Education Advisory Committee was created by the State Legislature in 1990, at the request of the Legislative Commission on Rural Resources, to advance rural education quality, access, and cost effectiveness. The Committee is comprised of seven members (listed below) appointed by the Governor, State Legislature, and Commissioner of Education to four-year terms and who reflect the diversity of the state's rural areas. The Commissioner of Education or his or her designee serves as chair of the Committee. The target population is the 400 rural school districts including: elementary, middle, secondary schools, and BOCES programs in New York's 43 rural counties. The Committee is engaged in several activities that address its legislative mandate including: mini-grant demonstration projects, sponsored research on educational needs in rural areas, and the promotion of interagency cooperation, to name a few.

**Chair: Alan D. Pole**

**Members:**

**Ronald Dougherty  
Edward W. Engel  
Lawrence A. Kiley  
Marjorie McCullough  
Samuel Shevat  
Renee Williams**



**Advisors:**

**Peter Applebee  
Ronald C. Brach  
Deborah Cunningham**

**For additional copies of this booklet, please contact:**

**NYS Legislative Commission on Rural Resources**

**Legislative Office Building; Albany, NY 12247**

**Tel. 518.455.2544; Fax: 518.426-6960**

**E-mail: [ruralres@senate.state.ny.us](mailto:ruralres@senate.state.ny.us)**

# Introduction

## Dear Friends:

It is our pleasure to provide you with a compendium of innovative teaching-learning projects that received matching funds through the Rural Education Advisory Committee's (REAC's) mini-grant program, made possible by appropriations from the New York State Legislature, at the request of the Legislative Commission on Rural Resources. The booklet includes projects completed in 2006-07 as well as those being conducted during the 2007-08 school year. A total of 139 applications from small and rural schools were submitted to REAC: 52 were funded, with a maximum award of \$2500 each.

The range of projects included in this booklet demonstrates how a modest investment of funds can further educational quality and opportunities for children and communities in rural areas by tapping the latent creativity and energy of teachers, students, administrators and community leaders. It is hoped that the booklet will provide a source of teaching-learning ideas that are replicated in other schools and communities. Interested readers will find the name and address of the local contact person who has experience with transforming each project into reality. We urge you to examine the projects and, where you have interest, to make contact.

In the call for proposals from rural schools and BOCES, the Rural Education Advisory Committee stated that the underlying goals of the mini-grant program were to help rural schools achieve the following:

- 1) **Provide a bridge out of poverty for children;**
- 2) **Function as community centers;**
- 3) **Build collaborative relationships with area agencies; and**
- 4) **Ensure a high quality education for all children, leading to their success in school, employment and civic engagement.**

The above priorities are based on recommendations advanced by state and local representatives who participated in the *Future of Rural New York Symposium* held in Syracuse, New York, July 2006 by Cornell University and the NYS Legislative Commission on Rural Resources. Members of the Rural Education Advisory Committee believe the projects contained in this compendium advance these goals and commend them for your review and consideration.

In addition, we have also included an abstract from a two year research project on *Assessing Capacity: Early Childhood Care and Education in Rural New York* that has been commissioned by the Rural Education Advisory Committee.

Yours sincerely,

Alan D. Pole,  
REAC Chair



## **Acknowledgements**

**The Rural Education Advisory Committee gratefully acknowledges the financial and legislative support of the State Legislature and Governor, without which the mini-grant program would not be possible. The Committee also appreciates the leadership and support of the NYS Legislative Commission on Rural Resources in helping secure this legislative support and for compiling and publishing this Compendium of mini-grant projects. The Rural Schools Association of New York state has also played a key role in advancing the REAC Committee and its efforts.**

**The State Education Department, Office of Educational Management Services, assisted with the development of the list of eligible schools and BOCES, as well as data gathering and preparation of the RFP for the comprehensive early child care and education research project that has been commissioned by REAC and is being conducted by Cornell University researchers. A debt of gratitude is owed to the Delaware-Chenango-Madison-Otsego Board of Cooperative Educational Services for its leadership and administrative support of Rural Education Advisory Committee activities.**

**Finally, the Rural Education Advisory Committee appreciates the time and efforts of the rural schools and BOCES that submitted 139 innovative project proposals for its consideration. Although it could not award grants to all requests within the funds available, it is hoped additional moneys will be appropriated by the state legislature for the 2008-09 school year.**



# ***Assessing Capacity: Early Childhood Care and Education in Rural New York State***

*The research project was conducted by John W. Sipple, Lisa McCabe, and Judith Ross-Bernstein of Cornell University; and commissioned by the NYS Rural Education Advisory Committee with funds provided by the NYS Legislature and secured by the NYS Legislative Commission on Rural Resources.*

**C**omprehensive early education programs can have a positive impact on children's future success in school and employment. This study examines whether all young children are evenly served in early childhood care and education across New York state; especially in rural areas. The capacity of counties and school districts in New York to serve children ages birth through four using state-defined service categories for infants, toddlers, center-based preschool, school-based pre-k, and family child care arrangements are being analyzed. This two-year study is the first of its kind to link together data from more than 17,000 childcare and preschool facilities (*from the Office of Children and Family Services*), nearly 700 school districts (*from the State Education Department*), and US Census estimates at both the county and school district level across New York. This interim report addresses the three research questions:

- 1. What is the incidence of early childhood learning program slots for children under age 5 in New York State rural counties and school districts;**
- 2. How do the number of early learning program slots relate to the number of age-eligible children in rural and non-rural settings; and**
- 3. What factors (e.g. geography, wealth, and education level) may be related to patterns of early learning programs in rural versus non-rural communities in New York State?**

**Three common themes have emerged regarding the capacity of rural communities to serve their young children:**

- 1. Center-based care for infants, toddlers, and preschoolers are more prevalent in areas populated by a wealthier, more educated populous, and in school districts that have higher test scores.**
- 2. State regulated family-based childcare and state-sponsored pre-kindergarten programs are more prevalent in areas populated by a poorer and less well-educated populace and in school districts with lower test scores.**
- 3. Beyond the effect of school district size on the offering of pre-k programs, rural school districts serving poorer populations of students who have less space per student are less likely to offer state funded pre-k.**

**Given the findings from year one of the study, the following scope of work is proposed for year two to better understand the quality of provision of early learning programs in rural areas of New York:**

- Continued analyses of already compiled data that includes expansion to Head Start and Special Education Data.**
- Naming of advisory board from key organizations across the state, with selected informant and advisory board interviews.**
- Case studies in rural communities that, among other objectives, examine impediments and solutions to implementing quality early childhood education programs in rural schools and communities and that identify opportunities for coalition building of assets.**

*For a copy of the interim report please contact the NYS Legislative Commission on Rural Resources at 518-455-2544 or visit the Cornell Community and Rural Development web site at: <http://devsoc.cals.cornell.edu/outreach/cardi/>, where a two page policy brief and the interim report are available.*





# 2006 Mini-Grants Table of Contents

<u>District/Descriptive Title</u>	<u>Page</u>
Albion CS — Neighbors/Albion	2
Altmar-Parish-Williamstown CS — APW Community Connection	3
Arkport CS — Arkport Reading Incentive Program	4
Attica CS — Adventures in Children’s Literacy: Supporting Emergent Literacy	5
Byron-Bergen CS — Welcome to the Byron-Bergen Learning Community	6
Canaserga CS — Canaserga Community/School Health Fair	7
Carthage CS — Keep It Books	8
Cobleskill-Richmondville CS — Fruit for the Future	9
Cobleskill-Richmondville CS —Teen Think Tank	10
Cobleskill-Richmondville CS — Local History Preservation: Linking Yesterday’s History with Today’s Technology and Senior Citizens with Young People	11
Delaware, Chenango, Madison, Otsego BOCES — A Case Study of Early Leaving	12
Elmira Heights CS — Career Connections	13
Hinsdale CS — Literacy Tutors	14
Madison-Oneida BOCES — Parent Academy	15
Madrid Waddington CS — Energy Efficiency for Home and Public Spaces	16
Marion CS —Community Read	17
McGraw CS — The Living Museum	18
Newark CS — Literacy, Lunch, Laughter	19
Newark Valley CS — Intergenerational Internet Class	20
Owego Apalachin CS —Teaching Remedial Reading and Math Concepts in an Integrated Program for Early Learners	21
Oxford Academy CS — Math in ACTION	22
Spencer-Van Etten CS — Reading and Writing in the Content Area	23
Springville-Griffith Institute CS — Senior to Senior-Lifelong Learning	24
Windsor CS — Natural Readers	25

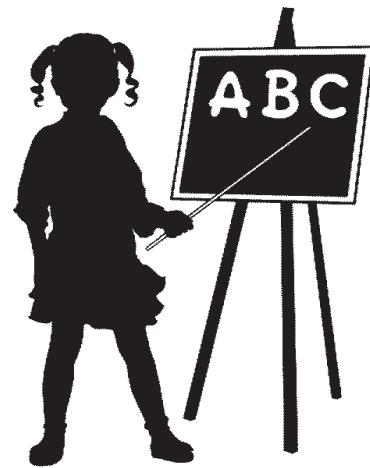


# 2007 Mini-Grants Table of Contents

<u>District/Descriptive Title</u>	<u>Page</u>
Albion CS — Value Everyone, Everyday, Everywhere	28
Altmar-Parish-Williamstown CS — Williamstown Elementary Educator/Parent Connection	29
Carthage CS — Choral Camp	30
Carthage CS — Play it Again	31
Cobleskill-Richmondville CS — Transition Team	32
Copenhagen CS — Designs by Knight	33
Cortland Enlarged City School — BE R.E.A.L.	34
Gorham-Middlesex CS — Marcus Whitman Bridges out of Poverty Community Read	35
Gouverneur CS — Create Community Connections through Hospitality	36
Greene CS — Pillars and Portraits, A School Community Connection	37
Herkimer CS — Herkimer Jr./Sr. High School Learning Center	38
Hinsdale CS — Literacy Enrichment	39
Holland Patent CS — Developing 21st Century Communities of Learners	40
Letchworth CS — Get in the Rhythm of Walking	41
Lyons CS — Staff Development through Teacher and Parent Learning Circles	42
Malone CS — Detention Deferment Program	43
Marion CS — Community Read	44
McGraw CS — Historical Living Museum	45
Morrisville-Eaton CS — Kindergarten Families Learning Together	46
Mount Markham CS — “Love Literacy” After School Program	47
Newark CS — Mr. Sharp’s Children’s Garden	48
Portville CS — Y.E.S. Portville	49
Prattsburg CS — Vine to Work	50
Ticonderoga CS — Project T.E.A.C.H.	51
Tully CS — Literacy Across the Ages	52
Whitney Point CS — School and Community: The Literacy Connection	53
Windham-Ashland-Jewett CS — Student Advisory Training Program	54
York CS — Rachel’s Challenge	55



**2006**  
**Rural Education**  
**Mini-Grant Projects**  
**Completed**



# 2006 Mini-Grant Projects Completed

## Albion Central School

## Orleans County

### **Project: Neighbors/Albion**

The Albion Central School formed a group, Neighbors/Albion, with a united vision of how they would make Albion a caring, culturally rich and inclusive community. The group is united by a shared vision of celebrating Albion as a unique community of neighbors and its commitment to respecting, nurturing and proclaiming their diversity as an opportunity. Students from the high school's leadership group worked with Neighbors/Albion and developed three projects that promoted the concept of good neighbors, celebrated and promoted life among diverse people and targeted some of the many unmet needs within the community. Specifically, a community gathering of over 60 people was assimilated and attendees were surveyed to devise community needs and strengths. During May, student-run historic tours of the community were provided and collaboration with a Strawberry Festival in June included a float in the annual parade and a food booth that specialized in Mexican Cuisine. A speaker met with staff members and a select group from Neighbors/Albion to begin a dialog about diversity. A community-wide cultural festival is planned for March 2008 with middle school Spanish teachers. Future implementation includes expansion of the relationship with migrant workers and the Hispanic population within the community.

#### **Contact:**

Susan Starkweather  
324 East Avenue  
Albion, NY 14411  
585-589-2087

E-mail: [sstarkweather@albion12.org](mailto:sstarkweather@albion12.org)



# 2006 Mini-Grant Projects Completed

## **Project: APW Community Connection**

An after school enrichment program for adults was implemented in the APW Central School District. The goals of the program were to provide information, services, workshops and materials that are not accessible for adult residents. Activities were scheduled during the late afternoons and early evenings at the Williamston Elementary School and free child care was provided as an effort to encourage broader adult participation. The workshops, based on a community survey, focused on parenting skills, drug and alcohol abuse awareness, computer literacy, arts and crafts and wellness/exercise. Sessions were well attended. Childcare needs exceeded expectations. Strategies for future implementation included more specific surveys to assist parents in selecting appropriate parenting sessions, offering sessions more often and decreasing resistance in alcohol and drug awareness in elementary settings.

### **Contact:**

Roseann Bayne  
55 Cox Road  
Williamstown, NY 13493  
315-625-5281  
E-mail: [rbayne@apw.cnyris.org](mailto:rbayne@apw.cnyris.org)

**Altmar-  
Parish-  
Williamstown  
Central  
School**

**Oswego  
County**



# 2006 Mini-Grant Projects Completed

## Arkport Central School

## Steuben County

### **Project: Arkport Reading Incentive Program**

The Arkport Central School used an artistic, motivational and school-wide approach to create the Blue Jay Reading Program for students K-8. Students were challenged to read more and to find more enjoyable reading materials. Teachers set monthly reading goals for their students, and an end of the month celebration for all family and community members was held to reward their achievements. A logo was designed and voted on for participant t-shirts. A book swap was held for students and a performed themed reading for the community was offered. Students were provided with an integrated and positive literacy environment that promoted a life-long skill of reading. Teachers provided instruction to K-8 students to become more proficient and confident readers by making reading fun and enjoyable through positive school and community support. Future implementation would include smaller and more leveled grouping celebrations, character-related activities and integration of physical education.

#### **Contact:**

Evelyn C. Niver  
35 East Avenue  
Arkport, NY 14807  
607-295-9823

E-mail: [Evelyn-Niver@stev.net](mailto:Evelyn-Niver@stev.net)





# 2006 Mini-Grant Projects Completed

## **Project: Adventures in Children's Literacy: Supporting Emergent Literacy**

The Attica Central School developed a pre-school lending library to promote reading skills by connecting pre-school children with books and hands-on educational literacy tools. The program offered three parent workshops and story hours were offered over four months to preschoolers. The program allowed the school district to put books into the hands of preschoolers and provide resources for parents based on literacy research, in the absence of a pre-school program. Each child that participated was provided an opportunity to develop his/her individual potential in a safe, positive and orderly environment by fostering lifelong learning skills, positive self-esteem and independent thinking. Recommendations for future implementation included breaking the story hour sessions into age groups to increase the attention span of the students.

### **Contact:**

Michael Tenebrufu

2588 School Street

Varysburg, NY 14167

585-591-0400

E-mail: [mtenebrufu2@atticacsd.org](mailto:mtenebrufu2@atticacsd.org)

**Attica  
Central  
School**

**Wyoming  
County**



# 2006 Mini-Grant Projects Completed

## Byron- Bergen Central School

## Genesee County

### **Project: Welcome to the Byron-Bergen Learning Community**

The Byron-Bergen Central School offered the Welcome to the Byron-Bergen Learning Community Program which emphasized the importance of early literacy and math skills by developing a DVD to provide to families of newborn babies within the district, based on the premises that every new parent has the highest expectations for their new child, to view in the comfort of their home. The DVD focused on developmental milestones in cooperation with the school physician, the importance of reading every day with a model of reading aloud, early math games, instructions on how to use the local town library, pre-school and summer opportunities, educational, fun and local activities for all families and fostered early literacy and math skills for newborn babies and their families within the district. Future implementation...

#### **Contact:**

Loren A. Penman  
6917 West Bergen Road  
Bergen, NY 14416  
585-494-1220 Ext 3110  
E-mail: [lpenman@bbcs.k12.ny.us](mailto:lpenman@bbcs.k12.ny.us)



# 2006 Mini-Grant Projects Completed

## **Project: Canaseraga Community/ School Health Fair**

The Canaseraga Central School offered a Community-School Health Care for pre-K through 12th grade students to test their knowledge of health and wellness. An educational outreach component involved the Allegheny County Health Department and students in each grade were responsible for a health/wellness booth at a health fair developed in conjunction with several health care providers. Display materials focused on the health objectives that were learned by students, resulting in a strong school and community initiative to adopt a healthier lifestyle. A community/school health and wellness program was implemented to promote a healthier lifestyle focusing on physical education, healthy meal choices and health screenings. Recommendations to the program included holding it earlier in the year.

### **Contact:**

Melissa Thompson

4-8 Main Street, P.O. Box 230

Canaseraga, NY 14822

607-545-6421

E-mail: [mthompson@canaseraga.wnyric.org](mailto:mthompson@canaseraga.wnyric.org)

**Canaseraga  
Central  
School**

**Allegheny  
County**



# 2006 Mini-Grant Projects Completed

## Carthage Central School

## Jefferson County

### **Project: Keep It Books**

The Keep It Books program implemented by the Carthage Central School was designed as a school and home book strategy to foster the literacy skills of families and children within the school district. Books were purchased for use in the home by students in grades K-2. Parent guides were provided for families and a Keep It Book Night was offered to encourage families to build home libraries, read to their children and encourage literacy activities at home. New reading and writing literacy home based activities for all pre-K through Grade 2 students and their families at the Black River, Carthage and West Carthage Elementary Schools were offered. Positive communications and motivation with parents and caregivers were fostered and parents report a greater interest in reading and quality time spent with them. Offering the program earlier in the year as part of family orientation was recommended for next year.

#### **Contact:**

Marilyn Bish  
25059 County Route 197  
Carthage, NY 13619  
315-493-5175  
E-mail: [mbish@carthagecsd.org](mailto:mbish@carthagecsd.org)



# 2006 Mini-Grant Projects Completed

## Project: Fruit for the Future

The Cobleskill-Richmondville Central School developed a tree fruit plot of 24 apple, pear and peach trees on the high school campus. Students in the agriculture program were involved in research, orchard layout, pest control methods, purchasing trees and a total of 96 students participated in planting day. As the project gains maturity and the trees begin to bear fruit, the integration of students in the Home and Careers class will also be established. The tree fruit plot will not only benefit existing and newly developed agriculture course offerings but will also provide students with hands-on expertise in planning, planting, pruning, insect management and harvesting. Networking with local fruit producers has begun, and educating the community about local agriculture products through a display at fairs and events is planned. This agriculture-based long-term project will benefit the school by strengthening its ties to the community, expose students to careers in the fruit industry and marketing, and encourage and educate students about the production of a food source they can use throughout their lifetime. Focusing on student exposure to other fruit orchards, inviting in guest speakers and traveling to shops to select supplies were future recommendations.

### **Contact:**

Deborah Fletcher  
1353 State Route 7  
Richmondville, NY 12149  
518-234-3565 ext 1192  
[fletcherd@crs.k12.ny.us](mailto:fletcherd@crs.k12.ny.us)

**Cobleskill-  
Richmondville  
Central School**

**Schoharie  
County**



# 2006 Mini-Grant Projects Completed

## Cobleskill- Richmondville Central School

## Schoharie County

### **Project: Teen Think Tank**

A core group of five, middle school students participated in a Teen Think Tank program, consisting of team building, problem solving, and enrichment activities designed to explore their talents, learning styles and interests. Through the process, students shared their thoughts and ideas for improving various aspects of school and decrease the likelihood of dropping out. Five Saturdays were spent working with adults from the community, speakers and the school to identify barriers to success and problem solve solutions. Three of the Saturday meetings were held in the high school to help orient students to the building and programs that would be available to them when they arrived as ninth graders. Students also visited the New York State Museum and Schenectady Planetarium. A New York State Department of Labor website, Career Zone, was accessed to help identify individual career options. The high school principal also visited one Saturday morning to introduce himself and welcome students to the high school. Future implementation included stipends paid to students, changing meeting times to after school and shadowing experiences as identified through the Career Zone.

#### **Contact:**

William Wolanger  
Washington Heights  
Cobleskill, NY 12043  
518-234-3165

E-mail: [wolangerw@crs.k12.ny.us](mailto:wolangerw@crs.k12.ny.us)



# 2006 Mini-Grant Projects Completed

## **Project: Local History Preservation — Linking Yesterday's History with Today's Technology & Senior Citizens with Young People**

The Cobleskill-Richmondville Central School brought two generations together in a school environment for shared learning and mutual understanding creating a unique opportunity to appreciate a living history of Cobleskill for the Golding Middle school students by completing the documentary, "Civil War Soldiers in the Cobleskill Rural Cemetery". Retelling the history of the community by seniors in the community who experienced these events first-hand provided a teaching tool that made local history come alive for students. Seniors with local stories of importance were recorded by the students, and will be reproduced and shared with teachers in the district as well as other school districts within the county. Students celebrated their creation at a premier presentation held in the school auditorium at an ice cream social get-together. As a result of the program, students, teachers and the community became more knowledgeable and seniors felt valued. Using today's technology to preserve the local history and individual accountings of Cobleskill encouraged each student to contrast the historical and cultural diversity of yesterday as it applies to current affairs and provided an opportunity for seniors to become a vital part of the community.

### **Contact:**

Cathy Haag  
193 Golding Drive  
Cobleskill, NY 12043  
(518) 234-8368

E-mail: [haagc@crs.k12.ny.us](mailto:haagc@crs.k12.ny.us)

**Cobleskill-  
Richmondville  
Central School**

**Schoharie  
County**



# 2006 Mini-Grant Projects Completed

**Delaware,  
Chenango,  
Madison,  
Otsego  
BOCES**

**Chenango  
County**

## **Project: A Case Study of Early School Leaving**

The DCMO BOCES is in the midst of facilitating a collaborative research project with the school districts in the rural DCMO BOCES region to determine why students drop out of school. The goal of the project is to inform regional and district-specific efforts on ways to increase graduation rates and learn how to assure that all students, including those who live in poverty, earn a diploma and receive related social and economic benefits. To date, 14 of 36 potential research participants have been interviewed. Significant preliminary data has been collected from the interviews and themes are beginning to emerge — student-teacher relationships and low poverty. The issues, as perceived by parents and students, include high levels of bullying/harassing by both peers and teachers, teacher influence by family prominence in the community, or lack thereof, and risky behaviors including fighting, alcohol and drug abuse. The project has received unexpected attention beyond the DCMO BOCES region. Research processes and preliminary results will be shared at the Rural Schools Association Annual Conference in July, as well as an invitation to share preliminary findings with the New York State's School Boards Association in October.

### **Contact:**

Lorie Ostrander  
6678 County Road 32  
Norwich, NY 13815  
607-335-1243

E-mail: [ostrandl@dcmoboces.com](mailto:ostrandl@dcmoboces.com)





# 2006 Mini-Grant Projects Completed

## Project: Career Connections

The Elmira Heights Central School partnered with the Greater Southern Tier BOCES Career Development Council for the Career Connections Project and involved local businesses and community organizations which facilitated career planning opportunities for 80 seventh graders at Cohen Middle School to develop in themselves a passion for particular future fields and careers prior to entering high school. Students visited eleven businesses, nine of the visits which were taped, and included tours and informational interviews about careers and how foundation skills are used at work. Students researched ten businesses, developed and rehearsed questions for informational interviews, wrote letters requesting interviews and wrote thank you letters. Outcomes included opportunities to discuss foundation skills with students, student awareness of the impact of poor attendance on income potential, and how math, computers, science and language skills are used in the workplace. Recommendations included incorporation of the program into the seventh grade curriculum, an emphasis on letter writing and interviewing in the English curriculum and accompaniment of core teachers with small groups to site visits.

### **Contact:**

Marcie Robinson  
100 Robinwood Avenue  
Elmira Heights, NY 14903  
607-734-5078  
E-mail: [mrobinson@gstboces.org](mailto:mrobinson@gstboces.org)

**Elmira  
Heights  
Central  
School**

**Chemung  
County**



# 2006 Mini-Grant Projects Completed

## Hinsdale Central School

## Cattaraugus County

### Project: Literacy Tutors

The Hinsdale Central School District provided reading tutoring after school for targeted students who are poor, have little connection to literacy and where the school is the center hub for the community for school and non-school activities seven days a week. Training for high school students that served as tutors was provided by the school. Students in grades 7-12 worked with students in the 3rd and 4th grades who scored a level 1 or 2 on a NYS test or were failing reading or the ELA. Students were tutored for an hour and supervised by the building principal in an after school setting. The program provided a safe, rewarding and mentoring experience for 3rd and 4th grade students to enhance their reading skills and instilled a love of learning shared by high achieving high school students with 3rd and 4th graders. Future implementation would focus on addressing the issue of after school supervision and meeting regulations for Literacy Volunteers and the YMCA KidZone.

#### **Contact:**

Laurie Edmonston  
3701 Main Street  
Hinsdale, NY 14743  
716-557-2227

E-mail: [ledmonston@hinsdale.wnyric.org](mailto:ledmonston@hinsdale.wnyric.org)



# 2006 Mini-Grant Projects Completed

## Project: Parent Academy

The Madison-Oneida BOCES provided a series of four, sixty-minute interactive workshops for parents to support student learning in literacy and math. Each workshop was held at separate school locations – Hamilton, Morrisville-Eaton, Madison and Stockbridge Valley. Families received literacy and math materials at the sessions, and presenters provided families with practical steps to support learning in the home. Family role models participated in interactive workshops, to promote students' long-term success in school, employment and civic engagement. Future implementation to engage a larger number of participants would include offering more incentives, and holding sessions in conjunction with other more, well-attended school activities.

### Contact:

Karen Pinkham  
4937 Spring Road, P.O. Box 168  
Verona, NY 13478  
315-361-5550  
E-mail: [kpinkham@moboces.org](mailto:kpinkham@moboces.org)

**Madison  
Oneida  
BOCES**

**Oneida  
County**



# 2006 Mini-Grant Projects Completed

## Madrid Waddington Central School

### **Project: Energy Efficiency for Home and Public Spaces**

Ninth grade science students at Madrid Waddington Central School participated in a guided energy utilization analysis. Students developed cost-effective ways to reduce personal reliance on non-renewable energy sources at home and in public spaces. Personal energy plans were developed for their homes. Home Repair and Maintenance, Physics, Upper Elementary and Junior High Science, Mathematics, English and Social Studies programs also benefited from the 9th grade “energy experts”. Students demonstrated through lesson plans and presentations how to reduce personal reliance on energy sources in the home and in public spaces.

#### **Contact:**

Paul S. Jones  
Route 345, Box 67  
Madrid, NY 13360  
315-322-5746  
E-mail: [pjones@mwcsk12.org](mailto:pjones@mwcsk12.org)



# 2006 Mini-Grant Projects Completed

## Project: Community Read

The Marion Central School implemented a community read program for the book, Tuesdays With Morrie, for all high school students, staff and residents of the community. The theme of the book connected with other disciplines in the Arts and Social Sciences. Each grade-level English class used critical thinking and dialogue in the reading assignment to explore development and awareness themes such as personal motivation and identity, heroism and decision-making. The literacy environment within the high school increased as a result of adult role models across all career types connecting with students; a community and a town library discussion was held; and professional collaboration among staff increased by having a school-wide program with cross-curricular goals. Recommendations include offering a similar program at the middle school level.

### **Contact:**

Ms. Kathy Wegman  
4034 Warner Road  
Marion, NY 14505  
315-826-2300

E-mail: [kwegman2@marioncs.org](mailto:kwegman2@marioncs.org)

**Marion  
Central  
School**

**Wayne  
County**



# 2006 Mini-Grant Projects Completed

## McGraw Central School

## Cortland County

### **Project: The Living Museum**

The McGraw Central School teachers implemented The Living Museum, where ELA and social studies teachers worked cross-curriculum to increase 8th grade ELA scores. The project provided opportunities for students to apply writing skills, research techniques and creative oral presentations. Students learned accountability, responsibility, time management and the importance of establishing and reaching goals. The project also incorporated involvement with seniors in the community as well as costume preparation. A living museum review was presented as a finale by students. The opportunities for additional reading, research, use of technology, literature and oral presentations during the program is expected to enhance the academic success and ELA test scores for the 8th grade students at McGraw Central School.

#### **Contact:**

Mary E. Reagan  
West Academy Street  
McGraw, NY 13101  
607-836-3627

E-mail: [mreagan@mcgrawschools.org](mailto:mreagan@mcgrawschools.org)



# 2006 Mini-Grant Projects Completed

## Project: Literacy, Lunch, Laughter

The Newark Valley Central School implemented the Literacy, Lunch and Laughter program for 24 classes, where parents from each classroom in grades 3-5 were invited to have lunch with their child at the school. Parents received specific strategies to help their child at home to improve their math and reading literacy. Each family received a take-home packet of resources that supported the specific learning module. Classroom teachers also attended the luncheon. Parents and children were brought together in a relaxed lunch time and home environment to foster individual student achievement in math and reading. Future implementation includes varying the content area, changing the title of the program and adding ten minutes to the lunch based on the evaluation forms completed by parents.

### **Contact:**

Christine Mizro  
316 West Miller Street  
Newark, NY 14513  
(315) 332-3326  
E-mail: [cmizro@newark.k12.ny.us](mailto:cmizro@newark.k12.ny.us)

**Newark  
Central  
School**

**Wayne  
County**



# 2006 Mini-Grant Projects Completed

## Newark Valley Central School

## Tioga & Chemung Counties

### **Project: Intergenerational Internet Class (IGI)**

The Newark Valley Central School offered an Intergenerational Internet Class, which paired students as mentors with adult learners within the community who wanted to master Internet skills of research, e-mail and general Internet usefulness. The program included a project coordinator, Internet instructors and middle-level student mentors and provided four, eight-week Internet courses. The final class of each session was held at the local cyber cafe to further enhance the school/community connection. The program was designed for middle school students and adult learners to eliminate barriers that interfere with school performance and provided alternative academic experiences that support student learning. Meaningful connections were established with adults and there were increased opportunities for students to be involved in additional/alternative academic experiences. The school is viewed as a community center and a resource in providing academic services by parents, senior citizens and other community members as a result of the program. Recommendations for future implementation include modifying the length and duration of the sessions.

#### **Contact:**

Lon T. Hayes  
79 Whig Street, P.O. Box 547  
Newark Valley, NY 13811  
(607) 642-3221

E-mail: [lhayes@nycs.stier.org](mailto:lhayes@nycs.stier.org)





# 2006 Mini-Grant Projects Completed

## **Project: Teaching Remedial Reading and Math Concepts in an Integrated Program for Early Learners**

The program implemented by the Owego Apalachin Central School was designed to supplement other forms of remediation for first and second grade students who were having difficulty with reading and math. Seventeen, one-hour sessions were conducted one hour per week. Eleven first grade and ten second grade students, selected by teacher recommendation, worked from their strength and moved forward in their academic understanding. Instructional texts and materials were chosen on the basis of their applicability to the New York State standards and guidelines. Students made progress in reading and math. Progress was noted in reading and decoding and fluency skills. An October Literacy Night is planned to provide information to parents about what they can do to help their children at home.

### **Contact:**

John Fleischauer  
1 Christa McAuliffe Lane  
Owego, NY 13827  
607-687-6261  
E-mail: [fleischj@OACSD.org](mailto:fleischj@OACSD.org)

**Owego  
Apalachin  
School**

**Tioga  
County**



# 2006 Mini-Grant Projects Completed

**Oxford  
Academy  
and  
Central  
School**

**Chenango  
County**

## **Project: Math in ACTION**

The Math in Action program implemented by the Oxford Academy and Central School provided 5th and 6th grade students the opportunity to learn the relevance and importance of math in career and consumer practices. Representatives from business spoke to students about how math is utilized in their profession and included presentations from a restaurant owner/operator, an auctioneer, an accountant and board of education president, a lawyer, a bank manager and an estimator for a fuel company. Field trips to several businesses during the second phase of the program showed students how math is utilized in the working environment. The project integrated activities within the academic disciplines, and related career and consumer involvement with mathematical concepts. Projects additionally undertaken included writing a math poem, math games, word problems and a garden project dedicated to the school and the community. Using innovative educational methods within the community and school, Math in Action promoted the importance of math in careers for all 5th and 6th grade students. Future implementation includes a collaboration with AIS students in the 7th and 8th grades to foster collaboration, a sense of community and leadership skills.

### **Contact:**

Dr. Joyce O. Knapp

P.O. Box 192

Oxford, NY 13830

607-843-2025 ext 2122

E-mail: [jknapp@oxac.org](mailto:jknapp@oxac.org)



# 2006 Mini-Grant Projects Completed

## Project: Reading and Writing in the Content Area

The Reading and Writing in the Content Area Program was implemented by the Spencer-Van Etten Central School. Using a balanced literacy approach, small group instruction with a combination of teachers and tutors, 7th and 8th grade students in Chemung and Tioga counties were targeted. Reading and Writing in the Content Area emphasized specific learning principles such as student-centered instruction and frequency and repetition in skill development. 7th and 8th graders learned strategies to increase their literacy skills using a Balanced Literacy Model to meet State ELA testing standards including a focus on note taking and listening for important details. A total of 12, grade 7 students and 17 grade 8 students participated, with a success rate of 75%..

### **Contact:**

David C. McNamara  
P.O. Box 307, 16 Dartts Cross Road  
Spencer, NY 14883  
607-589-7111

E-mail: [dmcnamar@svecsd.org](mailto:dmcnamar@svecsd.org)

**Spencer-  
Van Etten  
Central  
Schools**

**Chemung  
and  
Tioga  
Counties**



# 2006 Mini-Grant Projects Completed

## Springville- Griffith Institute Central School

## Erie County

### **Project: Senior to Senior - Lifelong Learning**

The Springville-Griffith Central School offered the Senior to Senior - Lifelong Learning Program. The program offered an intergenerational learning experience where senior high school students worked with senior citizens in 1 ½ hour classes that met twice a week for six weeks. The sessions including teaching beginning computer skills of email use, internet exploration, document creation, uploading and downloading files and attachments and incorporation of simple graphics. Senior citizens shared stories of their children, grandchildren and their own education and life experience. Two senior-to senior luncheons were held to acknowledge participants and recruit for future sessions. As a result of this project, the school will continue to offer the free course with local funds for similar courses over the summer and in the fall.

#### **Contact:**

Dr. Brenda Peters  
307 Newman Street  
Springville, NY 14141  
716-592-3230

E-mail: [bpeters@springvillegi.wnyric.org](mailto:bpeters@springvillegi.wnyric.org)



# 2006 Mini-Grant Projects Completed

## Project: Natural Readers

The Natural Readers project was undertaken by the Windsor Central School and extended learning beyond the classroom by providing male students an opportunity to improve their literacy skills using the middle school's 50 acre setting for environmental education. The mature wooded land surrounding the school was developed into a community nature trail as a mini-environment center where students engaged in hands-on activities and experiments that promoted an understanding of the local environment and engaged the students in reading. Students worked with advisory teachers after school to research and create activities that corresponded to stations along the trail, fostering their literacy skills while having fun testing ideas, building projects (bird houses and feeders) and creating the trails. Students research skills improved, and connections between needed reading and the creation of an end product were made. Although there was a high dropout rate of the program attributed to its length and conflicts with other school activities, it was noted the students who remained in the program had improved attendance, homework completion and overall behavior in school as well as a greater connection to the school community. Future implementation would shorten the length of the program, but extend the length of each day. One teacher would handle each section of the project, instead of multiple teachers per section, to enhance student connections with the theme of the program.

### **Contact:**

Patrick Stetson  
213 Main Street  
Windsor, NY 13865  
607-655-8247

E-mail: [pstetson@windsor-csd.org](mailto:pstetson@windsor-csd.org)

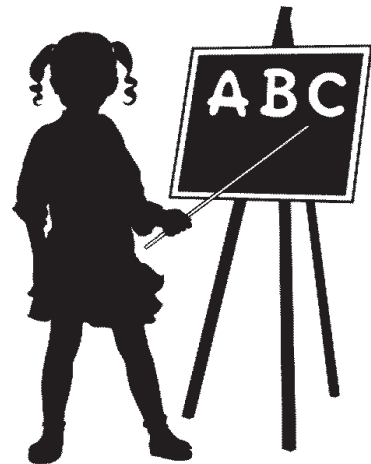
**Windsor  
Central  
School**

**Broome  
County**





**2007**  
**Rural Education**  
**Mini-Grant Projects**  
**Awarded**



# 2007 Mini-Grant Projects Awarded

## Albion Central School

## Orleans County

### **Project: Value Everyone, Everyday, Everywhere**

#### **Description:**

Through a REAC grant last year, a small group of high school students worked with a community group called Neighbors/Albion that promoted their rich history and showcased the important role the Hispanic population plays within the community. This year they will expand their mission to include all Albion students and their families. It was decided the best way to accomplish this was through a week-long, district-wide cultural awareness fair celebrating each resident as well as educating them about their neighbors. Through service learning as a teaching methodology, students in Pre-K through 12th grade will connect the curriculum to real world community issues and needs. By bridging the community with the school, the district-wide cultural fair will enhance student learning, strengthen community diversity, and value everyone, everyday!

#### **Product/Culminating Activity:**

Students, teachers and community members will plan a cultural awareness week to promote, celebrate and learn about each other through storytellers, speakers, music, dance and food. A final celebration will take place for families and community, and students will be surveyed on what they learned.

#### **Contact:**

Susan Starkweather  
324 East Avenue  
Albion, NY 14411  
585-589-2087

E-mail: [sstarkweather@albionk12.org](mailto:sstarkweather@albionk12.org)





# 2007 Mini-Grant Projects Awarded

## **Project: Williamstown Elementary Educator/Parent Connection**

### **Description:**

Building upon the successful implementation of last year's REAC grant, the school will continue with their popular community craft nights and also expand their offerings to include parent literacy nights where free books will be provided to build home libraries. The community surveys from last year supported the craft nights and free child care and indicated a need for computer training. The surveys also noted that staff and community members benefited from the informal settings and interactions. The Parent Connection will provide additional computer classes, will continue the "walk a mile club" and parenting courses, and will again offer free child care and snacks during all events.

### **Product/Culminating Activity:**

Craft nights, parent literacy sessions, building home libraries, computer training, a walking club and parenting courses will be offered to members of the community. Free child care and snacks during all events provide for a comfortable setting and allow informal interactions between the school and the community. The result will be stronger and enhanced relationships between educators and parents.

### **Contact:**

Rosann Bayne  
55 Cox Road  
Williamstown, NY 13493  
315-625-5251  
E-mail: [rbayne@apw.cnyric.org](mailto:rbayne@apw.cnyric.org)

**Altmar-  
Parish-  
Williamstown  
Central  
School**

**Oswego  
County**



# 2007 Mini-Grant Projects Awarded

**Carthage  
Central  
School**

**Jefferson  
County**

## **Project: Choral Camp**

### **Description:**

Conceived by a member of the community, Choral Camp addresses the need for an arts program in Jefferson County for students and community members that is easily accessible. Choral Camp will provide 5th through 12th grade students skills and experience in the performing arts with a focus on choral studies. Collaborating with local business and community members, students will participate in vocal studies during the summer and will be recruited to meet two hours, twice a week for five weeks. Based on recommendations from the NYS Arts Council, teachers will plan the curriculum to follow the rehearsal and the performance process ending with a family picnic where the students will perform. Choral Camp will strengthen the ties between the school and community as well as facilitate a new performing arts program.

### **Product/Culminating Activity:**

Working with local business, community and school, students in grades 5-12 will learn new vocal skills and participate in the community choral performing arts program. The culminating activity will be a performance at a family picnic. The program is aimed at strengthening ties between the school and community and facilitate a new performing arts program.

### **Contact:**

Richard Weber  
25059 County Route 197  
Carthage, NY 13619  
315-493-5175

E-mail: [mbish@carthagecsd.org](mailto:mbish@carthagecsd.org)



# 2007 Mini-Grant Projects Awarded

## Project: Play It Again

### Description:

The Play it Again project is designed as a school and home connection that addresses first grade students' early literacy need and oral reading fluency by reading aloud. This project uses the research based reading strategy, "Reader's Theatre", blending each student's desire to perform with their need for repeated oral reading, using grade level plays. Students will be introduced to plays and will perform by reading at school and home through "Play Scripts" and "Playback Packs" containing play scripts and simple props. Play It Again enhances reading skills and confidence through practice, entertainment and engagement at home and school performances.

### Product/Culminating Activity:

Using innovative and creative teaching technologies, first grade students will enhance their reading and performance skills by reading out loud and by exploring genre and characterization.

### Contact:

Marlyn Bish  
25059 County Route 197  
Carthage, NY 13619  
315-493-5175  
E-mail: [mbish@carthagecsd.org](mailto:mbish@carthagecsd.org)

**Carthage  
Central  
School**

**Jefferson  
County**



# 2007 Mini-Grant Projects Awarded

**Cobleskill-  
Richmondville  
Central School**

**Schoharie  
County**

## **Project: Transition Team**

### **Description:**

As part of the student's transition from eighth to ninth grade, all incoming ninth graders will be scheduled into a "Freshmen Forum" with ten students meeting with a teacher for 20 minutes once a day to discuss problems, concerns, strategies for success and goal setting. Through forum topics such as how conflict impacts you, stress management and health and wellness, each student will be encouraged to be more successful, accept responsibility, understand consequences and nurture connections. The Transition Team will provide an outlet for questions and problems as well as academic and social support for each student.

### **Product/Culminating Activity:**

Through information sharing, discussion and planned activities, incoming freshmen will regularly meet with teachers to discuss real life issues, concerns, goals and strategies, helping each eighth grade student transition to high school by offering academic and social support.

### **Contact:**

Pam Kostbar - Jarvis  
1353 State Route 7  
P.O. Box 490  
Richmondville, NY 12149  
518-234-3565 ext 1117  
E-mail: [jarvisp@cres.k12.ny.us](mailto:jarvisp@cres.k12.ny.us)



# 2007 Mini-Grant Projects Awarded

## Project: Designs by Knight

### **Description:**

Designs by Knight is a student-run entrepreneurial program that produces custom embroidered articles of clothing and accessories with assistance from a business teacher, technology coordinator and a technology integration/grant writer. Year-end video productions of graduating students in the program generated a desire by students to expand their “personalized business” into the market of video production and graphic design, by creating a subdivision of Designs by Knight. Designs by Knight will provide firsthand entrepreneurial experiences for the students within the school as well as opportunities to collaborate with community businesses for work study and job shadowing.

### **Product/Culminating Activity:**

Through market research, advertising and production, a small innovative business model will be created by the students, school officials and community members that promotes an inclusive educational program to meet the individual needs of all students for entrepreneurial experiences and training.

### **Contact:**

Margaret Nevills  
3020 Mechanic Street  
P.O. Box 30  
Copenhagen, NY 13626  
315-688-4411  
E-mail: [mnevills@ccsknights.org](mailto:mnevills@ccsknights.org)

**Copenhagen  
Central  
School**

**Lewis  
County**



# 2007 Mini-Grant Projects Awarded

## Cortland Enlarged City School

## Cortland County

### **Project: BE R.E.A.L.**

#### **Description:**

BE R.E.A.L. (R = Responsible Citizens, E = Educationally Sound, A = Agency Collaborators and L = Linked to the Community) provides an after school program sponsored by the Virgil Youth Commission to identified youth who need assistance with homework assignments. Scholarships will be awarded and Tompkins Community College students will provide daily homework support. Two components of community service will also be incorporated. Giving back to the community by means of keeping designated areas clean and engaging with the local senior citizen group will be undertaken. Participation in hands-on workshops with the Seven Valley Council on Alcoholism and Substances Abuse and Communities that Care Coalition will provide a mechanism for utilizing services the community offers.

#### **Product/Culminating Activity:**

BE R.E.A.L. provides students in need of academic support with unique collaborative opportunities to interface with college students and community seniors by providing opportunities to utilize the many services the community offers and to “give back” to the community.

#### **Contact:**

Lynn New and Sandy Price  
1208 Church Street  
Cortland, NY 13045  
607-758-4130

E-mail: [lnew@cortlandschools.org](mailto:lnew@cortlandschools.org)



# 2007 Mini-Grant Projects Awarded

## **Project: Marcus Whitman *Bridges Out of Poverty* Community Read**

### **Description:**

Ruby Payne, a well known contemporary author, educator and sociologist has suggested that each socioeconomic class has its own culture and language. Educators with a means to communicate can intervene in positive ways to promote change. Mentoring has been shown to be one of the most powerful bridges out of poverty. Based on Dr. Payne's research, a staff development project will focus on reading and discussing *Bridges Out of Poverty*. This community reading assignment will provide an understanding of the inter-generational poverty and isolation that many rural youth struggle with.

### **Product/Culminating Activity:**

School staff will better understand the challenges and socioeconomic barriers that many of the district students face and how to better communicate with them to promote positive change through reading and discussion of Author Ruby Payne's work, *Bridges Out of Poverty*.

### **Contact:**

Michael Chirco  
4100 Baldwin Road  
Rushville, NY 14544  
585-554-6441 ext. 1365  
E-mail: [mchirco@mwcsd.org](mailto:mchirco@mwcsd.org)

**Gorham-  
Middlesex  
Central  
School**

**Ontario  
County**



# 2007 Mini-Grant Projects Awarded

## Gouverneur Central School

## St. Lawrence County

### **Project: Create Community Connections through Hospitality**

#### **Description:**

A hospitality club is created for students in grades 3-12 who will have the responsibility to prepare food items as well as provide service at school and community functions. All students are encouraged to participate; however, students who are in need of a place to belong and an opportunity to fit in are targeted. Through the support of trained adults, students will learn how to prepare, present, serve and host events within schools across the district as well as for civic events and community organizations. Career opportunities will be explored with representatives from the food service and hospitality industry during a career day. Students will participate in a field trip to a local resort in the region to see the hospitality industry at work.

#### **Product/Culminating Activity:**

It is anticipated that many of the participating students will find a niche in the hospitality program, remaining with the activity until they graduate. A field trip to a local resort in the region will allow them to see the hospitality industry at work and provide options to them as they consider career choices for the future.

#### **Contact:**

Lauren F. French  
133 East Barney Street  
Gouverneur, NY 13642  
315-287-1903  
E-mail: [lfrench@gcs.neric.org](mailto:lfrench@gcs.neric.org)





# 2007 Mini-Grant Projects Awarded

## **Project: Pillars and Portraits A School-Community Connection**

### **Description:**

Pillars and Portraits integrates storytelling through literacy and art activities for a selected group of kindergarten, first and second grade students and their families, staff, and community members, using multiple generations within the community. Regi Carpenter, a well known storyteller, will be working with staff and students to interview and collect stories alongside Leigh Yardley, a visual artist. These two artists will assist in building a strong community-arts connection and will assist staff and students in writing, illustrating and presenting their stories at a public gathering. The stories will then be transposed into a mural on the exterior wall of the Greene Great American grocery store.

### **Product/Culminating Activity:**

Selected students in grades kindergarten through second grade along with their families, school staff and community members, will conduct interviews in the community, collect stories and then integrate storytelling through literacy and arts using community artists and multiple generations to produce a mural on an external wall at the Greene Great American grocery store.

### **Contact:**

Carole Stanbro  
127 Elementary Lane  
Greene, NY 13778  
607-656-5174 ext. 1  
E-mail: [cstanbro@greenecsd.org](mailto:cstanbro@greenecsd.org)

**Greene  
Central  
School**

**Chenango  
County**



# 2007 Mini-Grant Projects Awarded

## Herkimer Central School

## Herkimer County

### **Project: Herkimer Jr.-Sr. High School Learning Center**

#### **Description:**

The district is changing its focus for Academic Intervention Services to a team teaching/push-in model as opposed to a pull-out/study hall model. The program will provide training in the Learner-Focused Acceleration model for regular and Academic Intervention Services instructors. As suggested at the Rural Schools workshop last year, the second goal of this program is to visit community colleges with learning centers in the region, Herkimer County Community College and Mohawk Valley Community College to develop a “best practice” model for 7-12th grade students. It is anticipated that this new model will provide a greater understanding of the student and family needs within the district.

#### **Product/Culminating Activity:**

The Herkimer Jr-Sr High Learning Center will incorporate a new team teaching model for 7-12th graders integrating best practices from area community college learning centers and implementing the Learner-Focused Acceleration model for regular and Academic Intervention Services teachers focusing on a team teaching/push-in model.

#### **Contact:**

James Hawley  
801 West German Street  
Herkimer, NY 13350  
315-866-8562  
E-mail: [jhawley@herkimercsd.org](mailto:jhawley@herkimercsd.org)



# 2007 Mini-Grant Projects Awarded

## Project: Literacy Enrichment

### Description:

Literacy Enrichment is an after school program for academically struggling 3rd and 4th graders who are currently failing reading/English Language Arts and are recommended for tutoring needs. Classroom teachers provide the literature and activities and trained high school students assist with improving their reading skills. Students would be tutored for one hour, after school, up to two times per week and the enrichment providers would be academically successful high school students who would apply to the school principal for this position. Teaching strategies include questioning, modeling, thinking aloud, and conferring, among others.

### Product/Culminating Activity:

Academically challenged 3rd and 4th graders in reading/English Language Arts are tutored by trained high school students in an after school program supervised by teachers to improve their literacy skills. Students will be assessed every five weeks based on five-week grades/report cards and teachers will be monitoring reading improvements.

### Contact:

Laurie Edmonston  
3701 Main Street  
Hinsdale, NY 14743  
716-557-2227

E-mail: [ledmonston@hinsdale.wnyric.org](mailto:ledmonston@hinsdale.wnyric.org)

**Hinsdale  
Central  
School**

**Cattaraugus  
County**



# 2007 Mini-Grant Projects Awarded

**Holland  
Patent  
Central  
School**

**Oneida  
County**

## **Project: Developing 21st Century Communities of Learners**

### **Description:**

An Internet-based community will be created using Adobe Connect where teachers and students will use Connect's digital whiteboard, video and video conferencing to share documents for discussion and reflection. Participants will include science teachers, students, National Board candidates and experts from local colleges and state agencies. The program will integrate technology with planned science-inquiry projects and professional development initiatives using the planning and evaluating model developed by Joellen Killion. For example, students and teachers involved in raising brook trout will discuss their progress with faculty at Morrisville State College and with the Department of Environmental Conservation. Teachers involved in district and teacher center professional development will use Connect to follow through with the experts and the National Board candidates will use this technology for peer review.

### **Product/Culminating Activity:**

Using a planning and evaluating model developed by Joellen Killion, the program will focus on integrating technology with planned science-inquiry projects and professional development initiatives to create ongoing communities of learners as a model to be used by other districts, students, teachers and experts.

### **Contact:**

Patrick Peterson  
9601 Main Street  
Holland Patent, NY 13354  
315-865-7226

E-mail: [ppeterson@hpschools.org](mailto:ppeterson@hpschools.org)



# 2007 Mini-Grant Projects Awarded

## Project: Get in the Rhythm of Walking

### Description:

The Get in the Rhythm of Walking program for K-4th graders was designed to improve student health, academic and social achievement by incorporating academic goals into a physical health program. The basic premise of the program encourages students to engage in planned physical activity as well as eliminating inappropriate behaviors and increasing healthy habits and pursuits. The walking program will be enhanced to include listening activities and distance monitoring activities, such as supporting the NYS standards for elementary education, enriching the anti-bullying program and promoting collaboration with members of the community. Parents will be utilized as volunteers. Americorps volunteers will track distances and develop graphs of results. Pendants will be issued to students to build student interest and motivation.

### Product/Culminating Activity:

Students, along with volunteer teachers and parents, will walk during the remainder of their lunch periods, using pedometers to track their distances and MP3 players to incorporate academic and/or social messages which will complement the educational program directly supporting the NYS standards for elementary education and support the anti-bullying program. Walking together will increase healthy habits, attitudes of all participants and academic success for students.

### Contact:

William Bean  
5550 School Road  
Gainesville, NY 14066  
585-493-5999 ext. 7007  
E-mail: [wbean@letchworth.k12.ny.us](mailto:wbean@letchworth.k12.ny.us)

**Letchworth  
Central  
School**

**Wyoming  
County**



# 2007 Mini-Grant Projects Awarded

**Lyons  
Central  
School**

**Wayne  
County**

## **Project: Staff Development through Teacher and Parent Learning Circles**

### **Description:**

The Staff Development through Teacher and Parent Learning Circles program will consist of a 12-session joint professional learning circle that will meet on a weekly basis in an after school setting for learning, lesson planning and problem solving for 3-6th graders. The professional learning circle will consist of fifteen parents and at least five teachers from grades 3-6 and special education who will explore different educational topics through book reviews and district improvement initiatives. Teachers and parents will have the opportunity to talk about real issues and connect in meaningful ways without feeling threatened or judged, thus providing positive community feedback to the school and enhancing parent-teacher-student relations.

### **Product/Culminating Activity:**

This program will offer parents and grades 3-6 classroom and special education educators an opportunity to meet regularly in an after school setting to discuss goals for targeted students and share personal experiences. Outcomes are to be presented to the School Improvement and District Planning Teams at the conclusion of the project in May 2008.

### **Contact:**

Mary Clark  
98 William Street  
Lyons, NY 14489  
315-946-2200 ext 3501  
E-mail: [mclark@lyonscsd.org](mailto:mclark@lyonscsd.org)



# 2007 Mini-Grant Projects Awarded

## Project: Detention Deferment Program

### **Description:**

Students in grades 6-8, who have chronic inappropriate behavior, will have access to high quality education by significantly reducing the instruction many of these students miss during suspensions. Being a part of the community, students will learn volunteer work and develop a sense of purpose, leading to successful employment skills. Collaborations between the Malone Central School, the North Behavioral Health Services, other local agencies and the Skill Builder (a trained mental health professional or school counselor) will incorporate team work, appropriate behavior and coping skills in each daily student work session.

### **Product/Culminating Activity:**

Through a trained mental health or school counselor, up to six students in grades 6-8 who are placed in detention for inappropriate behavior, will serve one and 1/2 hours of community service in lieu of three hours of detention. This program works in collaboration with North Behavioral Health Services and several local agencies and will be offered two times per week.

### **Contact:**

Marice Bright  
P.O. Box 847, 15 Francis Street  
Malone, NY 12953  
518-483-9487  
E-mail: [mbright@mail.fehb.org](mailto:mbright@mail.fehb.org)

**Malone  
Central  
School**

**Franklin  
County**



# 2007 Mini-Grant Projects Awarded

## Marion Central School

## Wayne County

### **Project: Community Read**

#### **Description:**

The Community Read program includes all high school students, staff and community residents who read the book, *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time* at the same time and engage in related activities such as personal development and awareness. The Community Read program will increase the literacy environment of the school and establish professional collaboration among staff using a cross curricular process by connecting the theme of the book with other disciplines in the arts and social sciences across 9-12 grade levels. Additionally, the program will provide adult role models across all careers who make personal connections with each of the students. Weekly student and community book study sessions will take place at the school and the local library. Guest lecturers and a panel discussion will be offered at the high school.

#### **Product/Culminating Activity:**

A Community Read program for high school students, staff and community residents will focus on personal awareness on how we are all alike; and will develop and increase the literacy environment in the school. The program will be evaluated by attendance and participation rates in sessions, ELA test scores, measured assessments in the classrooms and survey evaluations.

#### **Contact:**

Denise Paley  
4034 Warner Road  
Marion, NY 14505  
315-926-4228  
E-mail: [dpaley@marioncs.org](mailto:dpaley@marioncs.org)





# 2007 Mini-Grant Projects Awarded

## Project: Historical Living Museum

### Description:

The Historical Living Museum will provide an interdisciplinary opportunity for 8th grade students to apply research and biographical writing techniques and develop creative oral presentation skills. The disciplines of ELA, technology, computer skills and social studies will be incorporated. Students will develop reading and research, writing, oral and presentation skills. Specifically, this project will reinforce learning accountability, responsibility and time management and establishing and reaching goals. Starting with a random selection of historical characters, students will explore the contribution, impact and talents they had on the development of our nation as it exists today. Artifact collecting and scrap booking of each character will be used as part of their final presentation to the community at the end of the year.

### Product/Culminating Activity:

Combining reading, research skills and role playing using technology and literature resources, students will visit and ultimately create a Historical Living Museum as a year end presentation to the community.

### Contact:

Mary Reagan  
West Academy Street  
McGraw, NY 13101  
607-836-3601

E-mail: [mreagan@mcgrawschools.org](mailto:mreagan@mcgrawschools.org)

**McGraw  
Central  
School**

**Cortland  
County**



# 2007 Mini-Grant Projects Awarded

**Morrisville-  
Eaton  
Central  
School**

**Madison  
County**

## **Project: Kindergarten Families Learning Together**

### **Description:**

This project focuses on hosting family activity nights four times a year for Kindergarteners and their families to help them understand how they can become more directly involved in their child's education. The first family night a "learning bag" consisting of activity ideas, a pamphlet on parenting skills, an alphabet book, contact information and craft supplies will be developed and distributed to students. Learning activities will be modeled for and completed by families and children at each session. The remaining family evenings will be scheduled throughout the school year and books will be distributed to Kindergartners for their parents to read with them at home. Copies of each book will also be placed in each Kindergarten classroom to help students become familiar with them in both settings.

### **Product/Culminating Activity:**

This project will prepare and distribute Learning Bags to every Kindergartener at the first of four family nights for students and their families held during the year. Modeling learning activities and reading together, families will learn how to become more directly involved in their children's education.

### **Contact:**

Debra Dushko  
55 Eaton Street  
P.O. Box 990  
Morrisville, NY 13408  
315-684-9288

E-mail: [ddushko@m-ecs.org](mailto:ddushko@m-ecs.org)



# 2007 Mini-Grant Projects Awarded

## Project: “Love Literacy” After School Program

### Description:

This program focuses on motivating and nurturing K-4th grade students’ love of literacy - reading, writing, listening and speaking with the overall goal to increase student achievement for approximately forty students at risk of failure on the NYS 4<sup>th</sup> grade ELA. Volunteer literacy partners (parents, community members, high school students, retired and active personnel) will be sought as well as an administrative intern who will train them in research-based effective literacy partner strategies and specific skill-based computer technology programs. Each student will be paired with a trained volunteer and will rotate through stations or learning centers of computer literacy games and activities. A “Love Literacy” learning log will be kept to document what was taught/learned as well as the child’s response.

### Product/Culminating Activity:

Approximately 40 K-4th grade students’ love of literacy will be nurtured by partnering with literacy volunteers who will use research-based literacy partner strategies and specific skill-based computer technology programs and the Internet to increase student success when taking the NYS ELA assessment. Information about this program will be created, filed and shared with future supervisors of the program.

### Contact:

Rebecca M. Marzeski  
500 Fairground Road  
West Winfield, NY 13491  
315-822-6327  
E-mail: [rmarzeski@mmcsd.org](mailto:rmarzeski@mmcsd.org)

**Mount  
Markham  
Central  
School**

**Herkimer  
County**



# 2007 Mini-Grant Projects Awarded

## Newark Valley Central School

## Tioga County

### **Project: Mr. Sharp's Children's Garden**

#### **Description:**

Modeled after last year's successful REAC grant entitled, *Intergenerational Internet Class* pairing students and community, Mr. Sharp's Children's Garden is a real life learning project born from an idea literally sown when one of the school's custodians offered to plant seeds brought in from students in the small garden area in front of the school. The beautification project will provide middle school students identified as needing additional and/or alternative opportunities to be successful, community members and faculty an opportunity to work together to extend the garden into a civic engagement experience and build school pride. Working under the auspices of a coordinator, the three groups will identify the best location for certain plants, launch a publicity campaign to offer plots for adoption and create a sustainability plan for the future care of the gardens.

#### **Product/Culminating Activity:**

Middle school students identified as needing additional and/or alternative opportunities to be successful, community members and faculty will design small, school garden plots that will encourage community civic engagement and build school pride. A ribbon cutting event for the children's garden will be held on the evening of the Annual Spring Art Show.

#### **Contact:**

Lon T. Hayes  
79 Whig Street  
P.O. Box 547  
Newark Valley, NY 13811  
607-642-3221

E-mail: [lhayes@nvcs.stier.org](mailto:lhayes@nvcs.stier.org)



# 2007 Mini-Grant Projects Awarded

## Project: Y.E.S. Portville

### Description:

Y.E.S. Portville is a district initiative targeted to high school students developed in conjunction with the Students In Free Enterprise chapter from St. Bonaventure University. Developing life skills pertinent to their future goals and aspirations, high school students will create and manage an outdoor ice rink by implementing their own business plan. The project will involve securing the materials, managing the funds and building process, creating and marketing events and recording statistical data. Through teambuilding, planning, communication and forging new relationships with stakeholders, the students will explore different career paths and obtain critical work experience that will help shape their futures. Younger students will be allowed to participate as the program develops. The ice rink will be open to all students and their families.

### Product/Culminating Activity:

Portville high school students will be working collaboratively with the students from St. Bonaventure University and the community to develop life skills pertinent to their future goals through the creation and management of an outdoor ice rink. As the program develops younger students will be allowed to participate in the development and marketing of age appropriate events.

### Contact:

Matt Milne  
500 Elm Street  
Portville NY 14770  
716-933-6000  
E-mail: [mmilne@portville.wnyric.org](mailto:mmilne@portville.wnyric.org)

**Portville  
Central  
School**

**Cattaraugus  
County**



# 2007 Mini-Grant Projects Awarded

## Prattsburgh Central School

## Steuben County

### **Project: Vine to Work**

#### **Description:**

This program will create a vineyard to be planted in the middle of the wine country and teaching modules will be developed to train students the regional culture of vineyards and wineries. The program will include visits to local vineyards. Vine to Work will provide job skills to those who are economically disadvantaged and/or facing disabilities. Students will plow, put in posts and wire in the fall; and in the spring the vineyard will be planted. Specifically, Vine to Work gives hands-on agricultural education in vineyard skills to students in the rural region where grape production is in high demand. Continued education is anticipated as sustained by grape sales.

#### **Product/Culminating Activity:**

Hands-on agricultural education and employment skills in vineyard planning construction and development will be achieved by economically disadvantaged and special needs students from Prattsburgh Central School, and Avoca and Hammondsport Central Schools.

#### **Contact:**

James G. Wall  
1 Academy Street  
Prattsburgh, NY 14873  
607-522-3795  
E-mail: [wallj@pratts.wnyric.org](mailto:wallj@pratts.wnyric.org)



# 2007 Mini-Grant Projects Awarded

## **Project: T.E.A.C.H. — Ticonderoga Educators and Community Helpers**

### **Description:**

The T.E.A.C.H. program offers a three-pronged approach in breaking the cycle of poverty that many students and community members live in. Focusing on teaching parents how to use technology to enhance their child's academic progress, involving the community in accessing the Internet and promoting staff development and the use of technology in the classroom are the three components of the program. Three times per month training on basic computer skills, accessing academic information and teacher web pages, and how computer technology can be used to assist their student's academic progress will be taught to parents. Community members will have the opportunity to access the Internet three times per month after taking the initial basic Internet class. Faculty will have monthly sessions that will focus on the use of technology to create more effective instruction. Combining these components T.E.A.C.H. will meet the needs of the parents, community and educators in increasing their use of technology.

### **Product/Culminating Activity:**

By exploring the use of computer technology and the Internet, parents, teachers and the community at large will develop essential and enhanced computer skills, and as a result will strengthen the educational program.

### **Contact:**

Bill Dodd  
5 Calkins Place  
Ticonderoga, NY 12883  
518-585-6661

E-mail: [wdodd@ticonderogak12.org](mailto:wdodd@ticonderogak12.org)

**Ticonderoga  
Central  
School**

**Essex  
County**



# 2007 Mini-Grant Projects Awarded

## Tully Central School

## Onondaga County

### **Program: Literacy Across the Ages**

#### **Description:**

This program extends literacy education beyond the school day and school walls through the collaboration of the school, parent and teacher organizations, several local civic groups, a local business, the Tully Free Library and the Elementary Library, and the Liberty Partnership Program. Books and dictionaries will be distributed to age appropriate groups. Literacy education programs will provide enhanced reading skills and extended hours and access to the school library spanning ages from two years old to senior citizens. This program will enable all ages to read and learn together or independently throughout the academic year. Transportation will be offered to students and senior citizens. This program breaks down the transportation barriers faced by this small rural community and engages school and community in a true collaborative literacy effort.

#### **Product/Culminating Activity:**

Literacy education is promoted for all age groups in this rural community by reading and learning together through the academic year. Participants will have a broad slate of choices in enhanced literacy exposure beyond the school building and day. This program will be supported through the collaboration of the school, parent and teacher organizations, local civic groups, local business, The Liberty Partnership Program and the school and public library.

#### **Contact:**

Debora M. Cox/Kraig D. Pritts  
P.O. Box 628  
Tully, NY 13159  
315-696-6213

E-mail: [dcox@tully.k12.ny.us](mailto:dcox@tully.k12.ny.us)

E-mail: [kpritts@tully.k12.ny.us](mailto:kpritts@tully.k12.ny.us)





# 2007 Mini-Grant Projects Awarded

## Project: School and Community – The Literacy Connection

### **Description:**

The Literacy Connection is an expansion of a program offered last year at the Whitney Point High School and will bring groups of high school students and community members together in small groups to discuss a common book selected by school and community library representatives. Selected volunteers will lead small discussion groups. Community connections will be established and reinforced by soliciting participation through ad and letter campaigns. High school students and faculty, Lisle Free Library patrons, Mary Wilcox Library patrons, Northern Broome Senior Center participants and the community at large will be targeted to participate. The committee will plan a culminating event bringing all participants together during National Library Week in April.

### **Product/Culminating Activity:**

A school and community reading program targeting high school students, library patrons, senior citizens and the community at large will create and enhance a community connection by reading a selected book and offering small group discussion sessions. A culminating event will bring all participants together during National Library Week in April.

### **Contact:**

Mary Hibbard  
P.O. Box 249  
Whitney Point, NY 13862  
607-692-8269  
E-mail: [mhibbard@wpcsd.org](mailto:mhibbard@wpcsd.org)

**Whitney  
Point  
Central  
School**

**Broome  
County**



# 2007 Mini-Grant Projects Awarded

## Windham- Ashland- Jewett Central School

## Greene County

### **Program: Student Advisory Training Program**

#### **Description:**

The Student Advisory Training program is designed to strengthen academic skills, improve behavior and attendance for targeted students in grades 7-12. Fifteen faculty members will serve as advisors to a group of 55 students. They will be assigned to students who have a history of weak academic performance, poor attendance and poor self-management skills. Students will be paired with faculty members that they trust and who will serve as positive role models and advisors. They will meet regularly, sometimes daily, to review academic plans, monitor attendance, learn conflict resolution skills and ward off potential issues that might contribute to academic or behavioral problems. Advisors will assess students on a regular basis and inform the project director of student successes and modifications that may need to be made.

#### **Product/Culminating Activity:**

A student advisory training program matches 15 faculty members and 55 students in grades 7-12 to meet regularly in order to improve the students' academic performance, increase their attendance and strengthen their self-management skills. A comprehensive evaluation will be done in June to strengthen the program for the following year.

#### **Contact:**

John Gratto  
PO Box 429, Main Street  
Windham, NY 12496  
518-734-3400  
[jgratto@wajcs.org](mailto:jgratto@wajcs.org)



# 2007 Mini-Grant Projects Awarded

## Program: Rachel's Challenge

### Description:

The life and death of Rachel Scott, as one of the first students killed at the Columbine High School tragedy, is highlighted in this school program as a one hour presentation depicting positive changes in how students should treat others. This is followed by an interactive 45-minute training session involving both adult and student leaders showing how to sustain the momentum created by the assembly. The assembly creates the “want to” or desire for positive change and the training session teaches the “how to” and ensures the positive impact will continue. Rachel's Challenge focuses on eliminating prejudice by looking for the best in others, daring to dream by setting goals and keeping a journal, choosing your influences, recognizing input determines output, initiating kind words and small acts of kindness, and starting a chain reaction with family and friends.

### Product/Culminating Activity:

Through Rachel's five-fold concept this program inspires, instructs and enables students to bring positive changes to the school atmosphere in the way they treat others.

### Contact:

Sheri Nevinger  
2578 Genesee Street  
P.O. Box 102  
Retsof, NY 14539  
585-243-1730 ext 2212  
E-mail: [snevinger@yorkcsd.org](mailto:snevinger@yorkcsd.org)

**York  
Central  
School**

**Livingston  
County**







*All our dreams can  
come true if we  
have the courage  
to pursue them.*

—Walt Disney

---

*The future belongs  
to those who be-  
lieve in the beauty  
of their dreams.*

—Eleanor Roosevelt

**Rural Education  
Advisory Committee**

**Chair: Alan D. Pole**

**Members:**

**Ronald Dougherty  
Edward W. Engel  
Lawrence A. Kiley  
Marjorie McCullough  
Samuel Shevat  
Renee Williams**

**Advisors:**

**Peter Applebee  
Ronald C. Brach  
Deborah Cunningham**



**For additional copies of this booklet, please contact:**

**NYS Legislative Commission on Rural Resources**

**Legislative Office Building, Albany, NY 12247**

**Tel. 518.455.2544; Fax: 518.426-6960**

**E-mail: [ruralres@senate.state.ny.us](mailto:ruralres@senate.state.ny.us)**