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Andover Advantage Foundation
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For Immediate Release

**Andover Advantage Awards Over \$70,000 in
Teacher Grants and Special District-Wide Project**

On Thursday, November 15, The Andover Advantage Foundation, a non-profit organization that provides private funding for Andover Public Schools, awarded over \$49,000 in Academic Advantage grants to teachers in all eight Andover schools. The 42 grants to 60 Andover teachers will help to provide extraordinary learning opportunities for all Andover students.

In addition to teacher grants, all students in Andover Public Schools will benefit from a \$21,000 district-wide grant to provide Podcasting stations for each of the eight schools. A Podcasting station consists of a dedicated laptop computer, a camera, and a cart. Podcasting is a form of audio or audio/video broadcasting on the internet.

Instructors can easily create a podcast of daily assignments and lectures from class, and publish it for all of their students. Students can likewise create and publish content and deliver it to their teachers or other students. Files are uploaded from the schools to the district website, www.usd385.org, where they can be viewed by students, parents, and faculty. Podcasting technology is currently in use in some of the elementary schools for daily announcements and other educational applications.

A donation from **Intrust Bank** helped fund "Tablet PC as a Creative Tool in Art" for Andover Central High School art teacher Rita Frakes. The Tablet PC will help students expand their knowledge of the technology field.

Andover Middle School librarian Karen Terry received Read, Listen and Playaway thanks to the *Pat Terry Endowed Fund*. These audio books will assist students with a wide range of physical, cognitive and sensory disabilities.

The Harmon-Weilhouwer Endowed Fund provided funds to purchase “Pair Up!” This guided reading series will be enjoyed by all Cottonwood Elementary third grade students.

Also at Cottonwood, first, second and third grade students will benefit from Literature for Everyday Math. By integrating math and literature, students will develop an understanding of the importance of math in the world. Teachers Kim Lawson, Joan Highfill, Cathy Durano, Michelle Peckham, Dotty Thengvall, and Shelly Barnes applied for these innovative grants.

Martin Elementary teachers, Dyana Diffin and Tanya Hastings are the recipients of a grant for books for their voluntary “Chat-n-Chew” program, which offers students the opportunity to reach books independently. The students meet over lunch to “chat” about the books while they “chew” their lunch.

Andover Middle School Exploratory teachers for FACS, Art and Spanish will be “Teaching SMARTer Not Harder” in their classrooms with the addition of three SmartBoards.

With ever-growing enrollment at Andover High School, teacher Pat Moore applied for a grant to add new weight stations to the weight room. This program directly reaches more than 300 students each semester.

Creative third grade teachers at Meadowlark Elementary will soon be “Teaching with Technic.” Helen Wilson, Molly Carrier, and Dee Young will teach students about motion, force, work, and simple machines with their grant.

Technology is the key to the future, and with his grant, Randy Traylor, Technology teacher at Andover Central Middle School, will ensure that his students are ready for the future. Enrichments for the technology lab modules will benefit students for many years.

Soon the sounds of jazz will be filtering into the hallways of Andover Central High School. Craig Gray, Instrumental Music Instructor, will receive a jazz listening library to help students understand the various style options for jazz.

Grants awarded by Andover Advantage are made possible through generous contributions from area patrons and businesses during our Annual Giving Campaign. Staff members also give generously through a payroll deduction program.

During its 10-year existence, Andover Advantage has awarded more than 500 grants and special district projects to all Andover schools. For a complete list of this year’s Academic Advantage grants, please visit our website at www.andoveradvantage.org.