

MARYLAND'S INITIATIVE FOR NEW TEACHERS

The MINT Program



MINT Small Grants Awarded
to
Beginning Teachers
February 2006



The Maryland State Department of Education
Office of Partnerships, Development, and Recognition
200 West Baltimore Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21201
410-767-0370

A Message About MINT and This Publication

MINT - Maryland's Initiative for New Teachers, a program of the Maryland State Department of Education, supports new and beginning teachers by offering state and regional networking dinners, resource information, and opportunities for professional development. Specially developed lesson-plans and strategies for new teachers have been developed by Maryland's Teachers of the Year in collaboration with Maryland Public Television's *Thinkport*.

In an effort to boost student achievement and encourage teacher retention, the MINT Small Grants Program was initiated in 2006. This year's awards were granted to sixty-three innovative projects, led by new teachers in Maryland. This booklet includes a brief description of these projects.

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**2006 MINT Small Grants for New Teachers
Recipient Project Summaries**

Anne Arundel County

BrainPOP: Helping Students to Think Outside the Box, Nicole Smith, Mayo Elementary School

All Mayo Elementary School students will have access to this website which has over 400 video clips aligned to standards, interactive post movie quizzes, experiments, timelines and printable activities. By including *BrainPop* into students' daily lessons, teachers can scaffold reviews into their lessons, bolster student comprehension and help ensure that struggling students are not slipping through the cracks.

Diablo Mentor Program, Julie Gosewisch, Southern Middle School

The project goal is to empower the socially and academically challenged students to boost their own self-esteem through the Diablo Mentoring program. This program helps students focus on positive perspectives by encouraging them to perform difficult motor skills tasks. Once mastered, the students help other team members develop these important motor skills.

Fun with Fractions! Liz Boone, Severna Park Middle School

This project will help students understand the concept of fractions and help them create multiple visual models of fractions. The project materials will support approximately 450 sixth grade students.

HSA English and Government Review Sessions, Laura Coe, Hanne Denney, Sarah Poole, Arundel High School

This project supports at risk 9th graders in U.S. Government and at risk 10th graders in English who were identified by low benchmark exams in both subject areas. The project helps increase student achievement on the HSAs by offering support after school one day a week through mid-May. Volunteer teachers tutor students on content and test taking strategies.

Baltimore City

Food System Project, Irvin Weathersby, Southside Academy of Environmental Studies

This project involves 15 students who will serve as business interns for Youth Organizing Urban Revitalization Systems (YOURS, community non-profit). These students will learn the operational business model for agricultural businesses. Goals include research of effective business models, creation of a business plan for a student garden at Southside Academy, and the presentation of this plan to the school's stakeholders.

Life Narratives—the Life and Accomplishments of Frederick Douglass, Katrina Scott, Frederick Douglass High School

Seventy-five ninth grade students in English I will complete a comprehensive survey of the life and accomplishments of Frederick Douglass. The students' primary text will be Douglass' first autobiography, the Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass and students will compose their own 'life narrative' as a final assessment. This grant will support the purchase of the autobiography, provide assistance with transportation, and pay for admission to the Frederick Douglass House located in Washington, D.C.

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Baltimore County

Math Breakfast Club, Nicole Barth, Melissa Harris, Baltimore Highlands Elementary School

The Math Breakfast Club is a morning math tutorial program that helps struggling students achieve in math and is targeted to 70 third, fourth and fifth graders. The project goals are to improve students' knowledge and understanding of basic math, improve their self-esteem, and provide them with extra practice on answering brief constructed responses on the MSA's.

The Artistic Owls Junior Optimist Club/Dundalk Middle/Chesapeake Bay Mural, Tricia Lane, Dundalk Middle School

This project involves 6th, 7th and 8th graders who will paint a mural with a Chesapeake Bay theme for the music wing of Dundalk Middle School. The project is intended to help students express their ideas about the importance of the Chesapeake Bay and the environment and will be a focus for the Dundalk community and Baltimore County.

Calvert County

Book Club, Margaret A. Land, Southern Middle School

The objective of this project is to build skills in student reading while offering guidance and coaching in the process of mutual inquiry that will help students develop habits of critical thought and analysis. Students will participate in the Book Club on an ongoing basis throughout the school year. New books will be read and discussed using the Socratic circle strategy.

Existentialist Themes in Literature: A Cross-Disciplinary Approach, Carolyn Kraat, Katie Dredger, Patuxent High School

This project will serve approximately 70 students in grades 10 through 12 from AP English and Theatre II. Students will explore existentialist themes in literature by use of both literary and theatrical instructional strategies and analysis.

Masks of Many Cultures, Jill Griwatz, Calvert Middle School

This project is geared to 90 eighth grade students who will learn about the masking traditions of many cultures and will compare the many similarities and differences of the cultures throughout the world. Students will have the opportunity to create their own masks and write a brief reflection on their work. The students will be evaluated on their construction techniques, expression of individual ideas, and on their written art history and art aesthetics reflection components.

Carroll County

AP Survivors, Melissa Frey, Century High School

This project will help promote awareness and renew excitement for Advanced Placement (AP) classes with an all-school AP Review event night. The event will take place 3 weeks before AP tests in May and will include: a motivational kick-off speaker; three review session periods; a dinner period; and an entertainment period between the final two sessions. It will also include a T-shirt for "AP Survivors."

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Masonry at the Carroll County Career & Technology Center, Michael Campanile, Carroll County Career & Technology Center

This project involves a masonry class of approximately 16 students who are putting together a miniature golf course for Carroll County Career & Technology Center's Annual Open House. The project funds will be used to purchase a masonry saw to replace the current one which is 25 year old.

Monarch Butterfly Watch, Joseph Stevens, Carroll County Outdoor School

The Monarch Butterfly project will give students a look into how humans and animals are vying for habitat in our ever-expanding society. The tagging and releasing will give students an opportunity to participate in "real-life" data collection and work with community leaders in the conservation field.

Cecil County

Learning with Board Games: An After School Club Grant, Matthew Feeney, Holly Hall Elementary

"Learning with Board Games" project will help students in multiple areas including: interaction, cooperation, sharing/patience, literacy skills, word building/phonics and number/numeracy skills. The project will target 40-100 third, fourth and fifth graders and will take place after school. The objective is to move the children from video games and TV to face-to-face peer interaction.

Using Different Hands-on Tools in the Geometry Classroom, Joy Sydenstricker, North East High School

This project will help support geometry classes at North East High School by purchasing additional geometric tools – the Mira and Patty Paper. A Mira is a tool used to see reflections of figures and lines. Patty paper is a special type of lightweight paper that students can use to create reflections by folding and tracing.

Charles County

Mexican Fiesta, Rebecca Caswell, Eva Turner Elementary School

This project will be an activity for 61 first grade students at Eva Turner elementary. The celebration will be formatted into ten highly interactive centers including: creating jewelry with alpaca of Mexico; introduction to Mexican dance & music; participation in a game of futbol (soccer); teaching numbers in Spanish; and sharing a Spanish/English story with a bilingual storyteller.

Raising Reading Achievement for Struggling Adolescent Male Readers, Lynn Wallace, Milton Somers Middle School

This project will target remedial male readers in 6th, 7th and 8th grades. The project's objective is to increase the time the students choose to read and to increase their reading comprehension.

Dorchester County

Pre-Fabricated vs. Stick Built—What Makes a Better Home? Cecil Johnson, Cambridge-South Dorchester High School

This project will allow 60 high school technology students (two classes, grades 9-12) to compare two popular methods of building a house. The students will visit a manufacturing plant for modular homes, create model homes in the classroom, and interact with a local contractor specializing in residential structures.

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Frederick County

Enhance Student Learning of Basic Biochemical & Molecular Concepts, Theresa Wiltout, Linganore High School

This project is an expansion of the use of manipulatives to demonstrate complex biochemical and molecular processes, and to provide concrete hands-on practice of these concepts. The manipulatives are reusable and can serve hundreds of high school biology students each year.

Linganore Newcomer Club, Dawn Murphy, Linganore High School

This project will serve approximately 125 students in grades 9-12. It will create social settings that can help new students fit into the high school setting enhance their ability to achieve academically. Community and student members will be involved in this project.

The Book Café, Emily Pollack, Brunswick Elementary School

The *Book Café* is an evening event for parents and children in grades 2-5. The students choose a book with their adult reading partner and discuss the book in small groups. Grant funds will be used to purchase books for each of the four *Book Café* sessions.

The Next Milton Bradley, Mary Anne Raymond, Thurmont Primary School

This project is divided into four phases and designed to promote cross-curricular problem-solving in a kindergarten classroom of approximately 25 children. The objective is for the students to use what they have learned in language arts, their increasing ability to solve problems and their writing skills to create a product they can enjoy with their families at home. This project will use commercial board games to encourage the creation of student learning games.

Garrett County

Handy Bend Universal Metal Bending Die Set, Jared Roth, Northern Garrett High School

This project will benefit 25 students in Machine Tool I, II and III, grades 10-12 who will complete student projects using the die set. The projects involve fabricating gates for the Savage River State Forest of the Department of Natural Resources and for an ornamental piece that will be constructed for sale.

Technology Advancement, Christa Bowser, Southern Garrett High School

This project will benefit approximately 850 math & science students in grades 9-12. The funds will be used to purchase a portable technology cart and software to create a mobile review center that can be used in any math/science classroom.

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Harford County

Comprehension Tools that Build a Community of Thinkers and Learners, Sondra Bender, Churchville Elementary School

The funds from this project will purchase a comprehensive toolkit that focuses on strategic thinking and explicit instruction through modeling, practice, and application. It will provide teachers with different comprehension strategies that help build a thinking environment.

The Dance of the Nucleotides, Christine Roland, Edgewood High School

This project involves approximately 90 tenth grade biology students performing the process by which proteins are synthesized based on genetic code in DNA. The production will be filmed, edited, and narrated. The project objectives are to relate the concepts of the gene to the sequence of nucleotides in DNA, sequence the steps involved in protein synthesis, and act out these steps in order to produce a short movie.

Photos for Math, Brenna Talbard, Roye-Williams Elementary

This project will allow 5th grade students to create “I Spy” books to make real world connections to the 5th grade geometry outcomes of the Voluntary State Curriculum. The project will help the students visualize specific geometry outcomes and provide reinforcement as they explore the books, looking for various geometric concepts.

Howard County

Additional Opportunities for Inclusion among Students with Severe Disabilities, Bridget Birago, West Friendship Elementary School

This project will benefit students with severe disabilities. The project objectives are to increase student participation in general education classes, increase scores on the ALT-MSA, and decrease behavioral disruptions during learning activities. Funds from this project will be used to enhance Physical Science, Life & Environment, and Earth and Space Science.

Developing Proficient Writers, Lisa Young, Atholton Elementary School

This project will help provide classroom lessons using the *6+1 Traits of Writing* that will support the written language portion of the Language Arts curriculum. This project will benefit approximately 150 students in grades 1-5.

Enhancing Student Algebraic and Geometric Understanding By Using Technology, Darryl Marsan, Glenelg High School

The project will help support the school’s mobile lab in Consumer Math, Algebra, and Geometry with Seminar classes and will benefit 150 students in grades 9-11. The objectives of this project are to increase the GPA of lower achieving students and increase the percentage of students passing the Algebra I MSA.

Enhancing Student French Language Skills Through Use of Digital Photography, Anne-Marie Lanz, Burleigh Manor Middle School

This project will benefit 6th and 8th graders studying French. The 8th graders will present their ideas orally and in written form; establish comparisons in writing between French and English; and share their work with the 6th graders. The 6th graders will gain from this unit by being exposed to several French speakers, in addition to their own teacher.

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Robot Challenge, Douglas Handy, Wilde Lake High School

The objective of this project is to design and build a motor-powered robot that walks under direction. Twenty-six Engineering Design students in grades 11-12 will be working on the project to gain experience in effective teamwork, authentic problem-solving, the design of mechanical systems, and the design of electrical systems.

Kent County

Walk to Get Fit, Nancy Howard, Millington Elementary School

Research conducted in 1999 by Caterino and Polack, concluded that mental focus and concentration levels in young children improve significantly after they engage in structured physical activity. This fitness research project will task approximately 232 students with keeping track of the average number of steps they take during a regular school day and on the weekends. The project will also provide pedometers to help the students calculate the number of calories expended according to the number of steps taken.

Montgomery County

24 Challenge, Carolyn Baker, Chris Ewing, Brookhaven Elementary School

This project will help improve “basic facts” knowledge of approximately 110 fourth and fifth graders by giving them opportunities to practice numbers games. The games will be available for students to take home and to play during lunch and recess on a weekly basis.

Fun and Fit P.E., Spencer Delisle, Stephen Knolls School

This project will provide the Adapted P.E. classes with therapeutic equipment to work on movement activities in the context of the Functional Life Skills Curriculum. The objective of this project is to improve the student’s functional range of motion and movement ability. It will benefit approximately 52 students with severe mental retardation and medical disabilities.

Inquiry Into Chemistry: Well-Designed Investigations, Wayne Breslyn, Rinder Guraya, Gaithersburg High School

This project allows students to conduct their own chemistry research studies centered on their individual research questions. The project objectives are to increase student interest in specific research and enhance both content and process skills detailed in the standards. This project will benefit 160 chemistry students.

Lights! Camera! Action! Read! Kerry Zahn, Montgomery Village Middle School

This project will serve 6th, 7th, and 8th grade ESOL students from El Salvador, Honduras, Sudan, Liberia, and Sierra Leone. The project will use film technology to boost student achievement by making lessons more accessible for English Language Learners.

Multisensory Learning, Christine Kelly, Carl Sandburg Learning Center

This project will enhance multisensory learning approaches for students in all academic areas. The project is geared to nine 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade students with severe disabilities including autism, emotional disturbance, and ADHD learning needs.

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Take Home Reading Book Bags, Abby Jacobs, Twinbrook Elementary School

This project will bring books into the homes of approximately 15 students and encourage parents to engage in their child's reading development. The project objective is to help build a bridge between home and school and to increase family involvement and literacy.

The March to 1000 Reading Grant, Steven Auslander, Weller Road Elementary School

The project will help support the current Accelerated Readers books by purchasing the computer quizzes that go with many of the AR books. The project will benefit the reading of approximately 85 fifth grade students.

Prince George's County

Business Cents, Ronae Howard, Cool Spring Elementary

Business Cents" is a cross-curricular project that includes math/economics, reading, language development and oral/written skills to promote community awareness and involvement. Students will increase problem-solving skills, strengthen basic math skills, apply learned math skills and concepts, increase vocabulary, and foster creativity. The project will include the entire 5th grade and will take place over the course of eight weeks.

Computer Software to enhance Mathematics Skills of 4th Grade Students, Kathleen Buie, Jonni Bocchino, Barnaby Manor Elementary School

This project will purchase Walton's Mountain software to supplement the daily 90-minute math curriculum for fourth grade classes. This software helps students understand fractions, percents, integers, equations, probability, graphing, measurement, and geometry.

Culture Kid Project, Michael Gunkle, Kenilworth Elementary School

This project will help students understand the diversity and commonality, human interdependence, and global cooperation of the people of Maryland, the United States and the World through a multicultural and historic perspective. The purchased materials will help support 96 third grade students.

Grandparents Assisting Newcomers Program, Margaret Holmes, Avalon Elementary School

Avalon Elementary has a growing population of students arriving from other countries. This project will assist the Grandparents Newcomers program by purchasing materials necessary to help boost basic vocabulary skills.

Independent Learning Activities, Angela Weisman, Third grade, Hollywood Elementary School

The objective of this project is to provide third graders with meaningful reading learning centers that will reinforce basic reading skills and provide a place where they can work independently. The purchased materials will support approximately 75 students.

Intelli Tactiles Pre-Braille Concepts, Marie Joann Morales, Tanglewood Regional School

This project will provide *Intelli Tactiles Pre-Braille Concepts* software for students with visual impairments or blindness and will benefit 54 students who range in age from five to fourteen. This software program can be used throughout the school to enhance communication and comprehension abilities, spatial and positional concepts, tactile discrimination of numbers, IEP and ALT-MSA reading and math objectives.

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Look, Listen, Read! Literacy Enhancement Program, Brent Pasko, Charles Herbert Flowers High School

In an effort to increase growth among our special education students, the “Look, Listen, Read!” program will use “Thinking Reader” software to engage, support and train 40 special education students who are reading below grade level. The program, which begins mid-February and ends in mid-April, will take place twice a week from 4-6 pm. The first meeting will include a reading pre-test and the final meeting will include a criterion-referenced post-test to judge achievement and measure the impact of the program.

Maryland Resources Ceramic Mural, Donna Rusinko, Art, Surrattsville High School

This project will support approximately 100-175 sculpture and ceramic students. Their task will be to construct terra cotta relief tiles depicting Maryland’s resources—natural and man-made—and figure studies of historical persons from Maryland.

Reading in the Content Areas, Roxanne Hendershot, Parkdale High School

This project is will implement additional reading in the content area classes, focusing on 9th grade English and Social Studies students. Purchased materials will support one class of history students partnered with one class of English students. The project is intended to boost the reading skills of 9th graders in order to better prepare them for their HSAs.

The Cardiovascular Challenge: Cutting the Fat, Kristin Kaldmaa, Kevin Bayly, Andrew Ashby, Benjamin Tasker Middle School

This project is designed to engage physical education students in 20-30 minutes of continuous, cardiovascular exercise every other day at an appropriate intensity. Students will learn to incorporate health and fitness knowledge to change or maintain their personal percent of body fat measurements. The project will serve approximately 1300 and the equipment purchased will become a permanent part of the comprehensive physical education program at Benjamin Tasker Middle School.

Think Globally, Act Locally, Emily G. Meny, Benjamin Tasker Middle School

This project citizen and voter awareness project will encourage students to realize that they can make a difference in their communities. It will also introduce students to their elected officials and will encourage the communication of community improvement ideas.

TI-83 Emulators in Math Classes, Harry Harrison, Oxon Hill High School

This project will develop procedures for running a virtual TI-83 calculator on the school or student’s PC. Many student’s cannot afford a TI-83 Graphing Calculator, yet these calculators are required for the HSA and SAT. The emulator will allow students to practice at home or library where they may have access to a PC.

Queen Anne’s County

Centreville Map Corp., Sean McCabe, Centreville Middle School

This project will help provide students with Global Positioning System units so they can collect field data for the United States Geological Survey in an effort to support *The National Map Project*. This project will actively engage students in the field of geography, helping them better understand their environment and also giving them an opportunity to fulfill service-learning requirements.

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St. Mary's County

Human Torso Model Will Increase Student Understanding of Human Anatomy, Elizabeth Huffines, Great Mills High School

This project will provide a model of the human torso so that 30 Biology II students can take a realistic approach to learning as they see how all of the organs of the human body work together.

Scrabble in the Classroom, Amanda Ellington; Esperanza Middle School

This project will serve approximately 100 7th grade Language Arts students during normal school hours and about 50 6th-8th grade students after school. Scrabble in the classroom will help improve student's vocabulary, spelling, dictionary skills, basic math computation, spatial relationships and cooperative learning.

S.L.A.G. (Scholars, Leaders, Athletes, Gentlemen) After School Club, Matt Spinney, Two Years; Dynard Elementary School

Students selected to participate in *S.L.A.G.*, an after-school club at Dynard Elementary, are recommended by their teachers. These male student members are considered "at risk" based on their academic, behavioral, and/or socioeconomic status. This grant will provide funding for learning and social activities that will encourage these young men to become motivated to achieve in school.

Somerset County

The Signs of Spring, Jamine Walker, Greenwood Elementary

This project is geared toward 18 kindergarten students covering areas in reading, science and math using *Kidpix 4 Software*. The software helps students to be more perceptive about nature and encourages them to plant and take care of flowers to beautify their own communities.

Washington County

Tea At Twilight, Rebecca Skrabak, Lori Ridgely, Michelle Mullenax, Eastern Elementary School

This project will provide an opportunity to increase parent and community involvement by hosting an evening of literacy. The evening will have a rotating schedule to allow students to share their writing portfolios with their parents, to create new written pieces with parents, and to work toward publishing co-created compositions as well as participating in Reader's Theatre with an established poet, Crystal Brown.

Traveling Book Bags, Amy McKenzie, Fountain Rock Elementary

The *Traveling Book Bags* will go home with students and will provide students and parents with an opportunity to read and complete family activities. It will also allow students to read and be read to on a specific theme.

Worcester County

A Night of Fun at the Snow Hill Elementary School Reading Carnival, Nyoka Mumford, Snow Hill Elementary School

This project is designed to encourage reading and promote an awareness of reading genres for pre-kindergarten through 3rd grade students. Students will enjoy a carnival atmosphere as they rotate through various interactive stations.

**2006 MINT Small Grants for New Teachers
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Improving Reading Skills of English Language Learners through Parent Involvement, Wendy Clark, Showell Elementary School

This project is designed to help 18 ESOL students in pre-kindergarten through third grade with general reading skills. The parents will use graphic organizers, flashcards, story re-tells and sequencing cards to help their children determine the beginning, middle and end of a story, identify the main characters, find the main idea, identify problems and solutions, and make predictions. This project also incorporates a family activity at Showell Elementary and a family field trip to the Salisbury Zoo.

Improving Socialization, Communication & Coping Skills of Alternative School Students through Challenge Course Participation, David Wells, Alternative School Program

This project will help students in grades 6-12 improve their socialization, communication and coping skills. Through participation in the Worcester County YMCA's "Challenge Course," students will be required to communicate within their group, create solutions to problems, and carry out the solutions to successfully accomplish the tasks of the "Challenge Course."