



Port Townsend Education Foundation FUNDED PROJECTS

2010-2011

PORT TOWNSEND HIGH SCHOOL

Hominid Skull Investigation

100 students

Grade 10

Two sets of resin replicas of hominid skulls will allow students to analyze evidence around the origin of the human species. With the tenth grade theme being “change over time”, the skulls will provide a tangible way for students to discover patterns and changes that have occurred in hominids over three million years. More broadly, it will strengthen skills around using evidence to draw conclusions when presented with a theory.

The Motor Project

120 students

Grade 9

Ninth grade students will build electric motors as they examine interconnections between ion chemistry, electrochemistry, electromagnetism, speed and acceleration, and energy transfer. After testing their motors on the PTEF-purchased power supply units, students will use the scientific process to formulate hypotheses regarding changes they could make to increase the efficiency of their motors. Students will then make changes to their motors and again test them to validate their hypotheses.

Points of Light Youth Leadership

20 Students

Grades 9-12

This project partners with a VISTA volunteer to offer PTHS students the opportunity to build skills in communication, problem solving, research, and teamwork, culminating in certification as a trained PLYi volunteer. Upon completion of the training, participants will execute a service-learning project. This program is based on the belief that engaging young Americans as active, problem-solving participants in their communities is key to revitalizing this country’s tradition of civic duty and volunteerism.

High School Symphony Orchestra Retreat

80 students

Grades 9-12

High school orchestra students will partner with family, PTHS Music Boosters and community volunteers for an intensive three-day musical retreat taught by distinguished visiting faculty. Students will hone theory, knowledge, skills and technique, plus learn how to apply a creative process to musical performance.

Mobile Integrated Technology Lab

350+ students

Grades 9-12

INNOVATOR’S GRANT

A mobile computer lab will be added to the 3rd floor of the PTHS main building. This lab will serve all social studies and foreign language classrooms. Students will have more robust, real-time information addressing current events, plus access to reference, tutorial and language-sharing websites. An important component in selecting this project is the proposal’s commitment to partner with families of graduating seniors to purchase additional computers as part of a “Senior Gift” to the school. By encouraging such support and validation of their graduate’s academic experience in the district, this initiative underlines the essential element of community support for our schools. PTEF hopes to see an evolving set of models for the use of these computers that will spread the integration of technology into the educational process throughout our district.

MAR VISTA ALTERNATIVE HIGH SCHOOL

Environmental Science Immersion Project

18 Students

Grades 11-12

Partnering with Olympic Park Institute, high school juniors and seniors will participate in the Elwha River Reclamation project, assisting scientists in gathering data, analyzing information, understanding ecosystems, and assessing the impacts of human intervention on the environment in a hands-on, three-day intensive learning experience. The removal of the Elwha Dam in 2011 is the largest dam removal and watershed restoration project in the country. Our students will have the opportunity to contribute to groundbreaking research in environmental science as part of this effort.

BLUE HERON MIDDLE SCHOOL

Why Do We Have to Learn About This?

95 Students

Grades 6

📖 SIGNATURE GRANT

Sixth graders will use resources purchased with PTEF funds to examine how what they learn in the classroom translates directly into life opportunities, and can be critical to success in a professional's career. Students will create video biographies on a variety of scientists, from on-line research of renowned scientists to real time video interviews of our area's community members, who use scientific concepts for their occupations. Video podcasts will be posted on the PTSD website where they can be accessed by all students.

Linear Equation Instructional Enhancement

270 Students

Grades 6-8

Students will learn how to use graphing calculators to enhance the understanding of algebraic equations, including slope and y-intercept; quadrant theory; fractions and negative values; linear and nonlinear equations; and non-proportional equation concepts. The use and understanding of this type of technology is absolutely mandatory for students in today's competitive environment, and already widely available in many other locations.

Writers in the Schools Program

315+ Students

Grades 3, 5, 8 & 11

This project offers every student in grades 3, 5, 8 & 11 an intensive writing experience. It is taught by professional writers through the highly acclaimed Seattle-based Writers in the Schools program and administered by Seattle Arts & Lectures. A culminating experience will invite students to celebrate their work in public readings, including publishing an anthology of their work.

Maritime Discovery Program

88 Students

Grade 7

An innovative three-week program for the entire 7th grade allows students to integrate the marine trades theme across multiple disciplines. Local community members partner with the Northwest Maritime Center/Wooden Boat Foundation to offer a diverse, hands-on experience to all participants.

Revolutionary War Novels

110 Students

Grade 8

Classic classroom novels about the Revolutionary War will be used to engage students in learning about that period in US history. Five different library-bound novels were selected to accommodate students with varying interests and reading levels, providing a broad opportunity to become engaged with the subject and more fully participate in classroom discussion.

GRANT STREET ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Poet in Residence: Christine Hemp, Year Two

325 Students

Grades K-3

Poet Christine Hemp continues her poetry/writing instruction to all Grant Street Elementary K-3 grade students during a week long Poet in Residence program; a Young Poets Conference; two staff training sessions; and seven additional days of instruction. In addition, a whole-school poetry book, with a poem from each child, will be published and given to every student.

Two Classroom FM Amplification Systems

44+ Students

Grade 2

Two wireless amplification systems were purchased for classrooms with students of an age where this would be of most benefit. Research demonstrates that such systems reduce teacher voice strain plus enhance learning for students who may otherwise not be able to hear lessons and/or teacher instructions. In addition, these systems have proven to help students when making classroom presentations, as many are not able to sufficiently project their voices such that they can be heard without amplification. These systems can therefore help build early skills and confidence in public speaking.