

September 9, 2008

Dear Rhinebeck Central School District Teachers,

As the school year begins, we are delighted to embark upon the second year of an extraordinary partnership of teachers, administrators and parents that has become the Rhinebeck Science Foundation. We want to thank the principals, director of Curriculum and Instruction, and faculty members at Chancellor Livingston, Bulkeley Middle, and Rhinebeck High Schools, as well as members of the Board of Education and the Superintendent of Schools for their creative and energetic support of this initiative from the start.

Innovative educational programs in science and technology begin for students in your classrooms; the Rhinebeck Science Foundation is committed to advancing faculty-designed project based learning. Toward that end, the foundation raised enough money in only six weeks of fundraising in 2007 to be able to donate \$6,000 for the 2008-2009 academic year specifically earmarked for science- and technology-based projects at every grade level. With this money, microscopes with visual projection systems will be ordered for CLS. An additional spectrophotometer and Trekker environmental analysis system will be acquired for RHS, and the Rhinebeck Science Foundation has successfully written a grant with Sharon Hicks for additional stereoscopic microscopes and a visual recording and projection system at BMS.

Happily, this year the Foundation is still able to dedicate \$1,500 to jumpstarting faculty-driven initiatives in the Rhinebeck school district. We strongly encourage you to apply for one of several mini-grants available to teachers at the three Rhinebeck public schools. Please look for our website in the coming weeks. You will be able to access the online application form from the Grants section of our website: [www.rhinebecksciencefoundation.org](http://www.rhinebecksciencefoundation.org) or pick up a copy of the grant application in the school office. Projects in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, but also in the arts and other applied areas, are eligible for potential funding. The deadline for applications this year will be December 1<sup>st</sup>. Not only is the Rhinebeck Science Foundation committed to providing funds outright, but it is also a partner to faculty in the grant-writing process. As you develop a grant proposal, please feel free to contact either of our two faculty liaisons, Catherine Pietrow ([catherine@rhinebecksciencefoundation.org](mailto:catherine@rhinebecksciencefoundation.org)) or Alison Vaccarino ([alison@rhinebecksciencefoundation.org](mailto:alison@rhinebecksciencefoundation.org)). Together, we can realize a broad-ranging vision that enhances an already rich curriculum; what we hope to help our children see is how important—and omnipresent!—science truly is as they grow and learn in the elementary through the middle and high-school years.

In closing, let us invite you to take part in an exciting community event this fall. The Rhinebeck Science Foundation's Discovery Festival will be held on Saturday, November 1<sup>st</sup> at Chancellor Livingston School. A one-day, three-hour long science and technology expo, the Discovery Festival aims to promote hands-on learning in the sciences. Please share your ideas and expertise with us as we plan for what we hope will become an annual tradition by contacting Roger Quon at 876-6705 or [quon@us.ibm.com](mailto:quon@us.ibm.com).

Thanks again for your continued energy, enthusiasm and support!

The Rhinebeck Science Foundation Board of Directors

*Supporting Creative Learning*

## **Rhinebeck Science Foundation**

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