

**Rhinebeck  
Science  
Foundation**

**PO Box 508**

**Rhinebeck, NY 12572**

**845 876 0748**

[www.rhinebecksciencefoundation.org](http://www.rhinebecksciencefoundation.org)

June 22, 2009

Dear RCSD Teachers,

As the school year draws to a close, we want to thank you for sharing your energy, ideas, and collective wisdom with us at the Rhinebeck Science Foundation. From promoting Discovery Festival in your classrooms to collaborating on the plan for a new, district-wide Eco-Initiative to begin in the fall, you have given generously of your time as well as your professional expertise.

Our goal at RSF is to complement and extend your efforts in the teaching of math, science and technology both at the local level of the individual classroom and at the broader level of district planning and curriculum development. We write now to encourage you to consider applying for a faculty mini-grant. These grants are available for all subjects. Any project that integrates the teaching of math, science, engineering or technology into the curriculum is eligible for support including interdependent disciplines such as art and technology, for instance, or physical fitness and biology.

This spring, the first RSF grant was awarded to a team of third, fourth and fifth grade teachers at Chancellor Livingston Elementary School. Welcoming local professionals into their classroom as mentors for their students, Katherine Younger, Thomas Blass, Deb Squillante, William Morrissey, Brenda Bloomer and Barbara Rizzolo launched an ambitious and interactive Math Fair using equipment—such as Vernier probes and Mindstorms robotics—newly acquired with foundation support. We plan to fund similar initiatives in the middle and high school, inviting applications from across all grade levels.

If you have questions about a possible project or the application process itself please contact district liaison Catherine Pietrow at: [pietrow4@yahoo.com](mailto:pietrow4@yahoo.com)

There are two grant cycles each year. The deadline for fall grants is: November 1, 2009. As always, we stand ready to assist you in seeking additional funding independent of the mini-grant program.

In the coming year, we also encourage faculty members to apply for professional development grants. To learn more about such opportunities, contact Diane Kantaros: [dkantaros@aol.com](mailto:dkantaros@aol.com)

As educators you have a keen sense of where the investment of resources will make a world of difference. Little of lasting value can be accomplished without your input. As such, we need to hear from you about pressing needs and wants: what does your grade level or lab require to enhance interactive learning for all students? The foundation like education itself thrives on dialogue. We look forward to building--and sustaining--a productive partnership with you for many years to come.

Thank you again for your support,

The Rhinebeck Science Foundation Board of Directors

