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NORTHJERSEY.COM NEWS

Ridgewood Education Foundation grants will fund 22 classroom projects

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2011

BY JOSEPH CRAMER
STAFF WRITER

THE RIDGEWOOD NEWS

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The **Ridgewood Education Foundation (REF)** has funded nearly \$35,000 worth of classroom grants for district schools, enhancing existing programs with technology and expanding the scope of music and science classes, among others.

REF President Jennie Smith Wilson presented the grant check to the Board of Education at its Dec. 5 meeting. The funds will support 22 grants for programs in seven district schools.

Grant funds can be used to supplement the existing classroom environment with new technology, as is the case with one grant piloting the use of iPads in elementary school classrooms.

The grant, authored by Somerville School fifth grade-teacher Meredith McLaughlin, funded the purchase of three iPad 2 devices to be used by 80 fifth-grade students.

A high school grant submitted by **Ridgewood High School** physics teacher Harold Nelson will integrate the practice of holography – using optical tables and holographic plates assembled by the students – to demonstrate real-world



Jennie Smith Wilson (middle), president of the Ridgewood Education Foundation (REF), and REF trustee Elizabeth Gordon present a check to Ridgewood

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applications of the concepts students spend the year learning.

Schools Superintendent Daniel Fishbein for classroom projects. For a profile of Wilson in this week's Village Voices, see page A8.

The holography grant is just one of several submitted by science teachers at RHS, Wilson said, adding that a large portion of this year's grants came from the high school.

Anti-bullying programs are represented in one of the grants, which funded a school-wide seminar held at George Washington Middle School earlier this month.

Musical programs at the high school level will see enhancements from the grants as well. These grants were funded from donations made in the memory of the late Ridgewood Councilwoman Anne Zusy, Wilson said.

In the grant for the RHS Chamber Choir, students will work with composer Nathan Jones to learn and perform a piece titled "I Would Live in Your Love," Wilson said.

"The second grant will bring the Boston String Quartet to RHS to work with the Ridgewood High School String players and choir and orchestra," she said.

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