



The  
*Ascension Fund*  
Promoting Academic Excellence

# 2013-2014

Teacher & School Impact Grants

The  
Ascension  
Fund has  
given over  
\$1.2 million  
to local  
schools  
since 1991.



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# Endowments

**\$150,000**

BASF Corporation

**\$75,000**

Shell Companies Louisiana

**\$50,000**

AllStar Ford/Lincoln

EATELCORP in memory of Mrs. Anona C. Banker

Ruth B. Scanlan in memory of Arthur G. Scanlan

Rubicon

Vulcan Materials

Whitney National Bank

**\$25,000**

CF Industries

Capital One Bank

Chester, Jr. and Penny Diaz in memory of Chester, Sr. and Mildred Diez

Freeport-McMoRan Foundation

Rotary Club of Gonzales in memory of its deceased members

Honeywell, Inc.

Lion Copolymer

Neese Industries, Inc.

Philippe Family in memory of Raymond Philippe, Sr.,

A.S. "Blue" Philippe and David "Wolfie" Philippe

Regions Bank

Rotary Club of East Ascension in memory of Sgt. Jay Ryan Gauthreaux

Southwest Computer Bureau

St. Elizabeth Hospital

Terra Mississippi Nitrogen, Inc.

Turner Industries

Williams-Olefin

**\$10,000**

Air Products

Buddy & Martha Wells

Claude & Carolyn Songy

InfiniEDGE Software

Viola Philippe in memory of Ed and Virginia Braud, Jr.

# Charter Members

**\$20,000**

Emerson Process Management (Fisher Services)

**\$10,000**

David and Leah Wilcox

**\$7,500**

Community Coffee

**\$5,000**

Bengal Products, Inc.

Blue Runner Foods, Inc.

Dupont Burnside Plant

Hughes Insurance Services, Inc.

In memory of George and Vernie Hughes

Lernes and Carol Deshautelles

Ormet

Sunshine Equipment Co., Inc.

**\$3,000**

W. J. "Fritz" Englade

Keith Thibodeaux

# Fundraisers

Coming this February  
Gonzales Civic Center  
Auction, Music & Comedian  
\$100 per Couple  
For advance tickets call  
225.290.3322



**HAVE A STEAK IN EDUCATION**

Gonzales Rotary Club



Final Event  
March 28, 2014

Gonzales Civic Center

For Sponsor Packets or  
Audition Information  
contact

Jennifer deFrances  
[info@ascensionidol.com](mailto:info@ascensionidol.com)  
[www.ascensionidol.com](http://www.ascensionidol.com)

# Cumulative Impact

Since 1991, The Ascension Fund has awarded over \$1.2 million in grant funds in the Ascension Parish public school system.

G.W. Carver Primary	\$78,796
Central Middle	\$15,402
Central Middle	\$56,798
Donaldsonville High	\$49,864
Donaldsonville Primary	\$71,107
Duplessis Primary	\$19,001
Dutchtown High	\$22,344
Dutchtown Middle	\$24,486
Dutchtown Primary	\$63,674
East Ascension High	\$71,464
Galvez Middle	\$56,940
Galvez Primary	\$37,963
Gonzales Middle	\$67,111
Gonzales Primary	\$92,575
Lake Elementary	\$117,360
Lakeside Primary	\$13,000
Lowery Elementary	\$22,451
Lowery Middle	\$17,977
Oak Grove Primary	\$62,671
Pecan Grove Primary	\$8,500
Prairieville Middle	\$32,238
Prairieville Primary	\$11,162
Sorrento Primary	\$3,000
Spanish Lake Primary	\$16,484
St. Amant High	\$83,622
St. Amant Middle	\$32,488
St. Amant Primary	\$67,740
LeBlanc Special Services	\$9,468
Ascension Head Start	\$8,219
Ascension Alternative	\$23,452
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,257,357</b>

# Teacher Grants

This School Year, The Ascension Fund was able to have a positive impact on 18 schools in Ascension Parish granting 29 Teacher Grants and 11 School Impact Grants totaling \$54,000.

**Teacher:** Darryl Babin **Funding:** \$500  
**School:** St. Amant High  
**Title:** AP Art Electronic Portfolios

My goal is to purchase an iPad for my art students to create and access digital images of their artwork that they will upload to the College Board's AP Studio Art website. This project will potentially impact approximately 180 art students annually. Because students are able to use art work from all of their art classes, this project will help ALL of my art students create and maintain an electronic portfolio that can eventually be used for their Advanced Placement portfolio. Also, current AP art students will evaluate and predict their scores based on former students' electronic portfolios. Students will evaluate their work based on medium, concept, and quality of work. With an iPad I will be able to move from table to table to demonstrate the upload process and access all past and current students' portfolios. Students will take pictures of their art work, have access to their digital portfolios, evaluate their work based on past scores, and even edit photos through various Apps. Academically, this project can potentially help my students achieve college credit for the art work they do in high school. This project creatively and more efficiently helps students maintain their digital portfolios for use in the AP Art class and potential use for admissions into art schools and colleges.

**Southwest Computer Bureau Endowment**



**Teacher:** Christina Bolinger  
**School:** Duplessis Primary  
**Title:** Motivating Readers

**Funding:** \$500

As teachers, we are challenged to engage every student, from the student reading two grade levels above to the reluctant struggling reader. It is my goal to motivate my students to read and understand non-fiction text. My objective is to create a classroom rich in inviting non-fiction materials that challenge and motivate students. The purpose of this project is to expose my students to quality, interesting, motivational non-fiction text, rich in a variety of text features. This project will benefit my students academically due to the CCSS focus on reading and understanding non-fiction text by motivating them to read non-fiction text while I provide instruction and rigorous activities around these texts. This project is an innovative and creative way to motivate students through the interest level of topics, vivid photographs, illustrations, charts, graphs, and the idea of reading a real magazine with current events relevant to their world while exploring places and things they would otherwise never see.

**Turner Industries Endowment**

**Teacher:** Carrie Bordelon  
**School:** Donaldsonville Primary  
**Title:** Vegetable and Butterfly Garden

**Funding:** \$1000

The purpose of this project is to provide special education students with the opportunity to learn in an academically integrated, meaningful, hands-on, student-centered learning environment outside the walls of the classroom. Students' special needs range from Developmental Delay to Mild Intellectual Disability. Each student has an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) that addresses student's individual needs. Gardens can accommodate students' visual, auditory and kinesthetic learning styles. An area accessible directly outside the classroom has been designated and established for the students to maintain a garden. Students will experience growing various fruits, vegetables, and flowers. After harvesting fruits and vegetables, the students will eat/taste the produce they have grown. Students' knowledge of gardening will be further extended through pictures, books, videos, and other pertinent forms of media. Students will also be allowed to freely access the garden as an area to gather thoughts, read, write, and/or when they feel the need for independent time. A growing concern is that today's children do not spend adequate time outdoors, gardens provide students exposure to true nature. Students who work in school gardens learn responsibility and provides team-building skills.

**CF Industries Inc. Endowment**



**Teacher:** Ashlee Bordelon  
**School:** Gonzales Primary  
**Title:** A Reader's Touch

**Funding:** \$1000

This project will provide iPod Touches to a 2nd grade classroom of approximately 20 students, most of whom read below-grade level. Through this project, students will use iPods to significantly improve reading fluency to ultimately create lifelong learners who are proficient in reading and utilize their reading skills as a backbone to success in other content areas. With the implementation of Common Core State Standards, the importance becomes not on teaching students what to learn, but instead teaching them how to learn. In this project, 2nd grade students will complete a variety of fluency tasks utilizing the iPods to record, play, and evaluate readings. Both struggling and strong readers will take responsibility for their learning in a relevant manner through the analysis of their recording, goal-setting, and monitoring of their progress. The ultimate goal is for 100% of students to read at or above grade level at the completion of the 2013-2014 year. In addition, academically, students will see gains not only in their reading fluency and comprehension, but across all content areas. This project is innovative in its integration of an interactive, motivating, and relevant tool to influence even young learners to reflect, self-analyze, and take ownership of their learning, while also improving their reading fluency to create not just strong readers, but also strong learners.

### **Regions Bank Endowment**

**Teacher:** Rae Broussard  
**School:** St. Amant High  
**Title:** DECA Career Development Conference

**Funding:** \$1000

DECA is a chapter of students who are interested in business, marketing, hospitality, and finance. Students take courses such as Entrepreneurship, IBCA, BCA, GCE, Customer Service, and Marketing. These funds will be used to help the students participate in the Louisiana DECA Career Development Conference, also known as the State Competition. DECA recognizes this opportunity to improve student achievement as student interest in each of these 4 areas continues to increase. DECA provides students a chance to compete to prove their knowledge. Throughout the year, students will be further enhancing their course objectives as they prepare to represent our school in the various competitive events at the annual Career Development Conference. DECA's co-curricular methodology encourages teacher/advisors to integrate DECA's program. DECA provides students with the industry validated performance indications used for the comprehensive exams, content interviews, case study scenarios and role plays as they prepare for their competition. DECA is a fun new way to get the students involved and interested in school and college/career opportunities. Students who are not your typical straight A/average students are joining a club and taking classes that they are actually interested in to learn and network.

### **Chester Jr. & Penny Diez Endowment in memory of Chester Sr. & Mildred Diez**

**Teacher:** Dorothy Castello **Funding:** \$1000  
**School:** GW Carver  
**Title:** 3rd Grade: On Common Grounds

The goal of the project is to ensure that 3rd grade teachers at G. W. Carver Primary have the literary materials that they need in order to implement the Common Core Curriculum in their classrooms. The students would study current events while the teacher will be able to embed reading comprehension and reading fluency instruction and practice. Not only would the students become better readers, they would also become more knowledgeable about the world around them. The grant would also provide a set of the exemplar read aloud texts (both stories and nonfiction) for each homeroom teacher, as well as a grade level set of poetry, to use in order to provide strong models for the students of a variety of comprehension skills. All of these texts would allow students the level of reading practice that would equip them to show high achievement on tests, benchmark tests, and ultimately state standardized tests.

**Claude & Carolyn Songy Endowment**

**Teacher:** Molly Chapman **Funding:** \$1000  
**School:** Spanish Lake Primary  
**Title:** First Grade and Beyond

“First Grade and Beyond” is a project designed by six teachers to service the diverse needs of all our 125 first grade students at our school. Each classroom consists of a diverse group of learners. Thus, teachers are faced with the formidable task of having to engage with different groups of learners, each of which has its own particular learning needs. Ideally, teaching would be a one-on-one enterprise, thus affording the teacher the opportunity to commit fully to the particularities of each child. The purpose of this project is to overcome this obstacle by means of independent and group learning stations. A project of this kind and scope, we believe, will prepare our students for success in the first grade and lay the groundwork for success “beyond” it. The resources purchased through this grant will create student-led stations in the classroom that enhance reading fluency and comprehension among the students. Fluency (the ability to read a text accurately and quickly) is important because it provides a bridge between word recognition and comprehension. The resources that will be purchased for this project will help our students to foster critical thinking and problem solving skills while developing their reading foundations, both individually and collaboratively.

**Terra Mississippi Nitrogen, Inc. Endowment**

**Teacher:** Amy Grain **Funding:** \$1000  
**School:** Dutchtown Middle  
**Title:** A View from the Holocaust

The purpose of the project is to broaden student understanding of the Holocaust and WWII through first-hand accounts and experiences of these historical events. Students will benefit academically through a variety of English tasks to deepen historical understanding and competency in reading, writing, listening, viewing, and speaking. This project is innovative because it will take students on a journey through the events of the Holocaust and WWII. This journey includes primary sources (non-fiction novels & articles), fictional accounts to compare to historical accounts, and a first-hand experience through a field trip to the WWII Museum in New Orleans.

### **Air Products and Chemical Endowment**

**Teacher:** Lisa Gypel **Funding:** \$1000  
**School:** Gonzales Middle  
**Title:** ESL Literacy Enhancement Project

The ESL Literacy Enhancement Project at our school will enable English language learners to improve their reading skills through the use of 4 iPods equipped with assistive reading and vocabulary-building applications. The iPods will also be used by the students to research and create presentations focused on the content areas of English Language Arts, Math, Science, and Social Studies. The iPods will give ESL students the opportunity to combine words, sentences, and paragraphs with graphics so that they will have a better understanding of the academic vocabulary that is being presented in the classroom. The project will also include a mini iPod projector so that the students can present their work to their peers and teachers. Over the course of the project the students will create an electronic portfolio of their work to self-evaluate in order to determine their strengths and weaknesses in English literacy. The overall goal of this project is three-fold; to motivate students by incorporating technology into their learning, to increase literacy skills by helping students acquire academic language, and to provide students with relevant and real-world learning opportunities.

### **St. Elizabeth Hospital Endowment**

**Teacher:** Courtney Dumas  
**School:** Pecan Grove Primary  
**Title:** Close Reading Care Packs

**Funding:** \$1000

The goal of the close reading care packs project is to engage students in their own learning and motivate them to love reading. With the shift towards common core state standards next year, teachers and students will need to be equipped to read authentic text and think critically. One of the strategies that is being suggested by common core is Close Reading. Close reading involves reading and re-reading quality text for a variety of purposes as well as holding discussions that support the critical thinking about text. In this project, students will be well equipped for close reading with their own personal "care packs" to use in class that serve as an academic resource and motivational tool. The student care packs will include books, clip boards, dry erase boards, etc... that will assist in classroom learning.

**Rotary of East Ascension in memory of  
Sgt. Ray Ryan Gautreaux Endowment**

**Teacher:** Garla Duplechin  
**School:** Gonzales Middle  
**Title:** Leaping Forward for Success

**Funding:** \$1000

This project involves ten special education students. Due to the moderate deficits of these students in academic and cognitive areas, the regular classroom setting cannot provide the level and type of instruction needed to address functional literacy and functional mathematics skills. Students with these kinds of diverse special needs tend to benefit from additional educational services such as different approaches to teaching, use of technology, and a specifically adapted teaching plan. This special education classroom will provide the ideal opportunity through this project "Leaping Forward For Success" to enhance hands-on learning into a real life experience using a supplemental approach, technology, and animation creating a new wave for learning through a child's eye. This is an engaging and multisensory program that provides rich language exposure and individualized instruction through a device called LEAP PAD2. This LEAP PAD2 will integrate interactive, personal learning tools with rich curricular content, and easy-to-use teaching touch keys developed specifically for children. The program is designed to motivate students, reward them for learning, and support differentiated instruction.

**Rotary Club of Gonzales Memorial Endowment**

**Teacher:** Pam Gautreau  
**School:** Lakeside Primary  
**Title:** Getting to the Core

**Funding:** \$1000

The goal of this project is to provide students with reading fluency, comprehension strategies, and writing skills. Third graders will 'read to learn and respond' using leveled (nonfiction) cross curricular texts and will digitally write and publish their own books containing various nonfiction, fiction, and poetry texts. The purpose is to target fluency, comprehension, and writing using leveled nonfiction/fiction resources with leveled texts. This project meets requirements outlined in the state's common core standards regarding fluent reading and comprehension skills using a correlation of leveled nonfiction texts, supports and enhances instruction in the classroom to develop significant reading/comprehension/writing strategies to sustain progress of all of my students, and utilize the benefits of technology (internet and publishing process). It will involve enjoyable and informative texts, bolster comprehension strategies as students read leveled books that meet their individual needs, and encapsulate the development of fundamental reading and writing skills.

**Ascension Fund General Endowment**  
**sponsored by Hughes Insurance Services, Inc.**

**Teacher:** Gisela Gautreaux  
**School:** St. Amant High  
**Title:** I Vamos a leer, Vamos a viajar!

**Funding:** \$1000

Students will use appropriate level Spanish readers to increase vocabulary comprehension, and to support learned grammar functions of the language with an emphasis on conversation. The readers will provide opportunities in the classroom for higher order thinking activities. These readers are based on adventure stories that feature exciting aspects of Spanish and Latin American history and culture. Using these particular readers is a creative way to enhance and support the content standards for foreign language study which are Communication, Cultures, Connections, Comparisons and Communities. The dictionaries will be used to support the reading comprehension and to teach students how to manually translate language.

**Honeywell Endowment**

**Teacher:** Kathleen Guedry  
**School:** Dutchtown Primary  
**Title:** PE Goes Musical

**Funding:** \$500

PE goes musical! Motivating children to exercise can be challenging, but it is my mission as a Physical Education teacher. Music can play a key role in motivating students to play and learn in PE. Children love listening to their music; therefore, I can channel that interest to liven up each PE lesson while building their bodies at the same time. The natural rhythm of a song invites students to move. The tempo of the song can spark lesson discussions on movement and exercise. The rhythm of a song correlates to math. The students can count the beat or predict pattern of beats for next frame. In PE, famous composers and their classical music will be introduced and used during warm ups. Students can compare and contrast the music played that day: classic vs. contemporary, warm up choice vs. lesson activity choice. By having the proper materials to collect and play the music, everyday music will enhance my PE lessons and reinforce other subjects within this curriculum. "PE Goes Musical" will motivate students to move, learn, and get fit while the music plays on!

**Ascension Fund General Endowment  
sponsored by David & Leah Wilcox**

**Teacher:** Lanie Gueho  
**School:** Prairieville Primary  
**Title:** Tools to Tackle the Common Core

**Funding:** \$500

The implementation of the Common Core is upon us! As exciting as it seems, there is one fear all teachers share about the Common Core – increasing the complexity of text. Previous Lexile levels placed 2nd to 3rd graders in the 140 to 445 range, but the newly adjusted Common Core Lexile Reading Bands place 2nd to 3rd graders in the 450 to 725 levels. It's a little unnerving. To combat the creation of a huge reading deficit, a program needs to be put in place to successfully advance students to these higher reading levels. The SRA Reading Laboratory 2.0 computer-based program is exactly the type of program that my students need to remain successful readers of this more complex text. This innovative program includes interactive opportunities for students to read and respond to complex text incorporating high quality graphics and videos. By using this program daily, I believe this will build independent, confident readers and writers ready to tackle the complex text of the Common Core. The Reading Lab program will be implemented with 48 third grade students performing at a wide range of levels. The goal of implementing the program is to increase the number of 3rd grade students who read at or above the 700 Lexile level during the spring STAR testing.

**Viola Philippe in memory of Ed & Virginia Braud, Jr.**

**Teacher:** Kimberly Houdashelt  
**School:** Spanish Lake Primary  
**Title:** Write Right!

**Funding:** \$500

My Second Grade classroom is a group of eager learners who brighten my day when they walk through my classroom door. My class is an inclusion classroom, consisting of a total of 21 students and 1 teacher. Many of my students are not fortunate to have resources such as dictionaries and thesauruses at home and unfortunately, I do not have any in my classroom to acclimate my students with. The 22 Children's Dictionaries and Thesauruses will be such an important resource that my students will learn how to use and have access to daily. Providing these simple tools will allow my students to have more independence to find the answers they are searching for on their own. The thesaurus' requested will allow my students to find words which can be used in place of what we refer to as "worn out words" when they are writing. This will help their writing incredibly and better prepare them for 3rd grade! This grant will allow me to add these essential learning tools to my classroom which will make such an impact on the independent learning of all of my students this year, and future students as well. My students will be able to comprehend what they read better and will enhance their writing ability as well. I cannot express enough what an asset these materials would be to our classroom and to the environment.

#### **InfiniEDGE Software Endowment**

**Teacher:** Jennifer Jones  
**School:** Oak Grove Primary  
**Title:** Getting Wired!

**Funding:** \$1000

"Getting Wired!" is sure to prepare students for success in the 21st century while exceeding literacy and science Core standards. 4th graders will "get wired" with iPads as they move beyond the boundaries of textbooks and into the world of technological learning. The goal is to integrate technology into science and literacy lessons and engage students with complex, authentic, informational text. This project will foster student curiosity and questioning, support collaboration and effective research, and offer multiple opportunities for students to gain, express, and share knowledge through a variety of text. This will be done by providing students with iPads to use in individual, small, and whole group instruction. In today's increasingly digital age, technology integration in the classroom is perhaps the most innovative way to engage students and utilize a wealth of tools and resources, while making learning fun. It presents boundless opportunities for students to take on a more active role in the learning process. It is creative in the way it motivates students through the use of the newest technology applications, simulations, and current topics. Necessary literacy skills will be built to support meaningful student engagement as students gain and apply complex scientific concepts.

#### **Ascension Fund General Endowment sponsored by Lernes & Carol Deshautelles**



**Teacher:** Allison Leake **Funding:** \$1000  
**School:** St. Amant High  
**Title:** DECA Hornets Sports & Mkt Conf.

At DECA Hornets Sports & Marketing Conference, students will be able to describe target marketing, explain advertising media, explain career opportunities, explain "out of the box" sales promotion opportunities by researching marketing careers associated with the sports and entertainment industry. The students will be required to complete a project about a sports marketing related career to attend the conference and possibly present a halftime show to the Hornets marketing executives during the conference. This conference will reinforce concepts taught in class that includes sports and entertainment marketing. This project and conference is a great way for our students to get hands-on experience from such a reputable company. It really allows them to expand their knowledge on different and innovative careers that otherwise they may not know about simply by researching.

### **Philippe Family Memorial Endowment**

**Teacher:** Vicki May **Funding:** \$1000  
**School:** Spanish Lake Primary  
**Title:** Let's get Interactive!

The goal of this project is to provide the students with interactive software that can be used in conjunction with the new Promethean boards that our school acquired this year. The purpose of this software will be to involve students in their learning through educational games and flip charts that engage them in a dynamic way. It seeks to empower students by putting learning in their hands. It will benefit students academically through use of interactive activities centered around standards addressed in our core curriculum. Phonemic awareness, reading, writing, rhyming, addition and subtraction software will all provide the kindergarten students with opportunities to practice skills they are being taught. This project is innovative and creative in that it uses technology in a way that helps students feel more like active participants, which in turn will foster greater inquisitiveness and responsibility for their learning. The multi-media content of the software combined with the Promethean boards will meet the needs of students will all types of learning styles. They will all be able to "get interactive" with this project!

### **Ascension Fund General Endowment sponsored by Dupont Burnside Plant**

**Teacher:** Joseph Nassar  
**School:** St. Amant High  
**Title:** All That Jazz!

**Funding:** \$1000

“All That Jazz” is conceived as a co-curricular jazz studies program designed to complement and enhance the current musical offerings of students enrolled in grades nine through twelve. With its fundamental arrangement as a standard high school jazz ensemble, this program will serve approximately 35 students and will be comprised of a cross section of the student body. While most of the students will have some formal training in music performance, the vast majority will have little or no experience performing in the jazz idiom. Specifically, this grant will extend the course offering to students who would normally be unable to participate because of low income and inability to purchase an instrument and equipment, and those who would typically not purchase an instrument or equipment because of uncertainty of talent or ability. “All That Jazz” brings together musicians from across the school community to experience one of our state’s great art forms through performance in a fully functioning jazz ensemble which includes music reading, chord realization, song accompaniment, improvisation, arranging, stage etiquette and ensemble performance.

**Ascension Fund General Endowment  
sponsored by Community Coffee**

**Teacher:** Connie Newman  
**School:** Spanish Lake Primary  
**Title:** Literally Math

**Funding:** \$1000

The goal of this project is to support and encourage literacy across the math curriculum using advanced technology. EBooks, audio books, educational games, and Power Points are just a few of the tools that I can use with iPods to help keep students motivated to explore literacy in math. Fun and interactive texts and apps on iPods provide a natural way for students to grasp math concepts, make real life connections, and independently build critical skills. Literally Math is innovative and creative as it simultaneously improves math achievement, literacy, and student engagement. Interactive technology is the way many children learn today, meeting each child’s learning style and maintaining a high interest level. This allows the learning process to not only be academic, but fun. Children will be excited about learning and meeting their math and literacy goals.

**Capital One Bank Endowment**

**Teacher:** Nancy Ourso  
**School:** Central Middle  
**Title:** Picture This!

**Funding:** \$1000

Students will be studying the various forms of media such as: television, computers, magazines, newspapers, and yearbooks. Within each media, photography and writing skills play very important roles. Each mass communication class is responsible for at least one major project throughout the school year: a monthly school newspaper and the school yearbook. Students benefit from these classes because there are multiple areas in which they may express themselves or showcase their talents. Articles are written, flyers and posters are produced electronically for advertising, copy writing is learned, and photographs are taken. A major purpose of this project is to heighten students' appreciation and awareness of the beauty and waste of people's actions.

**Ascension Fund General Endowment  
sponsored by Emerson Process Management**

**Teacher:** Louisa Palmer  
**School:** GW Garver  
**Title:** Reading to the CORE

**Funding:** \$1000

Reading to the Core will create a vital home-school literacy link by providing material for children who do not have appropriate materials available at home, allowing families to become an integral part of their child's education. Reading to the Core is an innovative approach because it provides students with access to the necessary materials needed to bridge the literacy gap. Reading to the Core will serve as a way to connect parents, children and the teacher around building a strong literate independent reader. Studies have shown that when students, parents and teachers work together, this causes children to learn more and better, whereby, students increasing their academic performance in the area of reading.

**Freeport-McMoran Foundation Endowment**

**Teacher:** Sheena Prelow

**Funding:** \$1000

**School:** GW Carver

**Title:** Concept-Oriented Reading Instruction

Many resources at our school are outdated as we shift towards full implementation of the Common Core Curriculum next year. Of those 40 incoming fifth graders, about 11 students (38%) are currently scoring below basic on their reading comprehension benchmark assessments. My goal is to increase reading comprehension of all students while gaining conceptual knowledge for reading, science, and math. The students will gain strength in reading abilities, have a higher interest in reading age-appropriate texts, awareness of building on prior knowledge, and participate in positive social interaction activities. This project is innovative as it allows students to build conceptual knowledge of science and math topics through literacy and inquiry.

**Ascension Fund General Endowment  
sponsored by Blue Runner Foods, Inc.**

**Teacher:** Gatherine Ragusa

**Funding:** \$1000

**School:** Spanish Lake Primary

**Title:** Kindergarteners Can Write Too!

The objective of this project is to connect phonemic awareness, phonics, and eventually, reading to the writing process. Through the use of daily whole group and small group phonics instruction, literacy centers that support and extend whole and small group instruction, and a Kindergarten Writer's Workshop, students will learn to become confident, independent writers. Phonic Faces uses a creative and multisensory approach to teaching the alphabet. It is designed specifically for visual learners, but is beneficial and entertaining for all learners. In the Writer's Workshop, the teacher will give daily small group lessons at each child's individual level of writing. Students will then have a specified area-The Writer's table-to practice what they have learned in the workshop. By teaching students to be creative, use proper writing mechanics, and how to manage their writing time, they will learn to work through each day's workshop and the writing process with independence.

**Ascension Fund General Endowment  
sponsored by Sunshine Equipment Co., Inc.**

**Teacher:** Garlye Roussel  
**School:** Duplessis Primary  
**Title:** Science Fun

**Funding:** \$1000

A 5th Grade Erosion and Food Chain and Web hands-on activity kit will be purchased for 60 regular and special education students to use that includes activity books for each student. We have two units in the curriculum devoted to Earth and Life Science. My goal is to give students the opportunity to experience learning through activities that are rigorous and fun at the same time. The kits will bring science to life for the students that will make them more interested in learning the required material. The kits include all materials for students to be able to participate in hands-on learning activities. Parts of the kits are not consumable, so they can be used for many years to help students succeed in Science class. Touching, hearing, and seeing are the ways students learn, and I believe that my students need a variety of manipulatives in order to reach each one on their own level. Hands-on activities allow all children to learn their own way so they can succeed. About 50% of my inclusion class's students have some sort of learning disability that requires a specific plan I must follow to reach their ability level. These students with additional help and manipulatives can learn like the other students and be successful in this ever changing world. The kits will help those students succeed in everyday life experiences including careers geared in Science fields.

**Neese Industries Inc. Endowment**

**Teacher:** Katy Secrist  
**School:** Spanish Lake Primary  
**Title:** An Apple a Day-iPads for the class

**Funding:** \$1000

The goal of this project is to enhance and improve First grade phonics, phonemic development, and reading comprehension through the use of an iPad. Ebooks, audio books, site word practice, handwriting activities, and math games are only a few of the tools I can use on the iPad to help keep student attention in gaining literacy success. Our school has wonderful access to technology such as mobile labs, wireless access, desktops in the classroom, and many more devices which assist the students' performance at or above the grade level.

**InfiniEDGE Software Endowment**

**Teacher:** Jodie Signorelli **Funding:** \$1000  
**School:** St. Amant High  
**Title:** Language! Exploration

Reading difficulty undermines students' abilities to succeed in every academic subject. Language! Exploration will help around 100 incoming freshman with identified reading deficiencies, to have intense reading support their first year of high school to help them grow from a struggling reader to a successful reader. With the Common Core State Standards push into the curriculum to prepare students for the workforce, a student's ability to read on-level texts, including how-to manuals, is critical. Our goal is to close the literacy gap and address significant reading and language deficiencies their freshman year. This project will help students become skillful, independent readers that not only achieve academic success, but also move on to become skillful, productive citizens in the workforce. Language! Exploration is a highly effective and innovative literacy intervention curriculum that will leverage the new media technology available to our students through computer access all day, all year long (the one-to-one program), to engage the students and accelerate literacy growth while also learning valuable digital skills.

**Ascension Fund General Endowment  
sponsored by W.J. "Fritz"Englade**

**Teacher:** Kristi Wyble **Funding:** \$1000  
**School:** Duplessis Primary  
**Title:** Kindervention

The goal of the Kindervention project to is provide students and teachers with a fun, creative, innovative, research based intervention program that can also be used for daily whole group instruction of the Common Core foundational skills. Given the implementation of the new Common Core State Standards, kindergarten teachers need more resources and materials the meet both the needs of all kindergarten students and also meet the Common Core State Standards in the process. The Letter People Kindervention program is a small group reading intervention program designed to catch and bring at-risk early readers up to speed before they fall behind and is 100% built for the Common Core State Standards. The Letter People Kindervention program has many components that can also be used for whole class instruction to introduce letters and teach the required early literacy skills of the Common Core State Standards.

**Lion Copolymer Geismar Endowment**

# School Impact Grants

**Teacher:** Jody Delatte & Danette Ragusa **Funding:** \$2500  
**School:** Central Primary  
**Title:** A Novel Approach

As our 3rd - 5th grade students and teachers fully embrace the Common Core State Standards, it is necessary to provide them with rich literature. Our new Common Core State Standards are designed to create learners who can not only read, but use quality literature as evidence in their written responses to complex topics. It is our goal to provide our students with strong literature options that will create high interest and thought provoking topics. This grant will allow us to increase the selection of novels available to our teachers so that each of these grade levels can introduce students to a wide variety of texts that include both fiction and informational texts. These books will provide students with relevant materials that promote critical thinking through performance based assessments.

**ALLSTAR FORD LINCOLN Endowment**

**Teacher:** Mia Edwards **Funding:** \$2500  
**School:** St. Amant High  
**Title:** ACT Now

This proposal will serve high school juniors and seniors which includes approximately 800 students. The 2012-13 school year was the first time that graduating seniors' ACT scores counted for 25% of our school performance score, which is part of the state's accountability program. It is imperative that our teachers possess the knowledge, skills, and strategies necessary to prepare our students to be successful on the ACT test. This project will fund the teacher training, course materials, and student practice test - all of which will improve student ACT scores.

**BASF Corporation Endowment**





**Teacher:** Laurin Hutchinson  
**School:** St. Amant Middle  
**Title:** 21st Century Library

**Funding:** \$2500

St. Amant Middle School library, which is the focal point of our school, is striving to help implement the new Common Core State Standards by offering students more access to technology and nonfiction materials. The SAMS library serves approximately 530 students and 45 faculty and staff. The library is not only used for classroom teachers to bring students in to check out books and research, but it is also used for professional development for teachers, club meetings, and various other uses. We currently have seven workstations for students to use, but we would like to increase the amount of technology by offering students the use of laptops. Another area that we would like to improve is our audio visual. The library would benefit greatly from having a television. It is my vision that teachers could bring students to the library to view videos or important events in the news such as presidential speeches. We would love to have a flat screen television mounted on the wall with a movable bracket to make viewing more accessible. We have a number of VHS tapes that need to be converted into a DVD so that they are available for teacher use. We are requesting a VHS to DVD converter as well.

### **Shell Companies Louisiana Endowment**

**Teacher:** Jennifer Jones & Lisa Gros  
**School:** Oak Grove Primary  
**Title:** Mathletes-We Are All Competitors!

**Funding:** \$2500

“Mathletes-We Are All Competitors!” is sure to engage and capture students while closing academic gaps and increasing math performance. A school wide use of this innovative online program will challenge students at all levels with prescribed activities regardless of age or grade as students compete against each other and students across the world. Its goal is two-fold as it is meant to change the trend of a deteriorating growth pattern as seen in the past three years of high stakes testing results while filling in gaps created by changing curricula. This will be done by providing teachers a resource to use to identify and prescribe lessons in order to ready students for college and career readiness. The use of the latest technology that students already buy into makes this project innovative. It is creative in the way it motivates students through the use of interactive tutorials and games. The program has a reward system built into place with the use of avatars and opportunity to earn items for personalization. It also provides immediate feedback and an overview of student performance on Core skills. Used as a supplemental resource, teachers can quickly determine strengths and weaknesses that can be used to meet each student at the appropriate level.

### **Ruth B. Scanlan Endowment in memory of Arthur G. Scanlan**

**Teacher:** Amber Landry **Funding:** \$2500  
**School:** Lowery Elementary  
**Title:** Motivating Students with iPads

The goal of the project is to motivate students to learn by exposing them to a variety of new resources like educational applications, safe Internet browsing for research, word-processing applications, and online reading materials. There is really no end to what students can do in the classroom with an iPad! This new motivation will help improve comprehension skills resulting in increased academic growth. This will impact students in every subject, especially with this year's implementation of the Common Core Standards. It will impact my school because we are currently an under-performing school. The students in my class take the iLEAP test, and the score received from some subjects will be doubled. Another academic benefit of the iPads is student motivation. Being able to use this new technology to learn will make everything related to learning much more appealing. I believe this project is innovative because technology in the classroom provides real-world experience that will push and prepare our students for the ever-changing world of tomorrow.

**Vulcan Materials Endowment**

**Teacher:** Amy Roberie, Tanya Viso, **Funding:** \$2500  
**School:** Callie Hooper & Daina Kennedy  
**Title:** Galvez Primary  
Speak Up

The Common Core State Standards for Speaking and Listening encourage students to SPEAK UP, and that is just what they will do using the iPad. Students will use Apps on the iPad to create podcasts to demonstrate mastery of the speaking and listening standard that addresses presentation of knowledge and ideas. Creating a podcast fully engages students in the objective of the lesson. It allows them to collaborate with other students and engage in a range of discussions, all while demonstrating an in-depth knowledge of a complex text. The iPad will allow them to feel comfortable to SPEAK UP when discussing important literary and informational texts, and since technology is something they feel comfortable with, they are able to use it to build confidence in other aspects of their life, like public speaking.

**BASF Corporation Endowment**

**Teachers:** Mae Stevens & Elizabeth Presley **Funding:** \$2500  
**School:** Prairieville Primary  
**Title:** Providing Education Naturally

The goal of the project is to provide all grade levels, learning styles, and ability levels an outdoor hands-on learning experience that supports the need for high level learning opportunities. This project will provide a path to experience the environment in a natural setting and meet the new Common Core. The purpose, expose students to an integrated learning experience outdoors. Being engaged in real-world experiences in a living laboratory, students take part in in-depth investigations using objects, materials, experiences, skills and ideas to draw meaning from and develop a greater understanding for the topic they are studying. Students will be active participants in their own learning instead of passive learners who listen to lectures, read text books, and learn to regurgitate what they memorized. Students manipulate items in the environment they are studying like plants, rocks, insects, and water using instruments such as rulers, balances, test tubes, thermometers, nets, microscopes, and calculators to collect and interpret the data. Multi-disciplinary activities will engage students by enhancing understanding of how "it all fits together."

**EATELORP Endowment in memory of Mrs. Anona Banker**

**Teachers:** Natalie Sullivan & Jeanie Breaux **Funding:** \$2500  
**School:** AP Head Start  
**Title:** Language/Literacy Go Hand in Hand

Children acquire language skills when given the opportunity to hear language of the storybooks. In listening to and talking about stories that are read aloud, children help build both listening skills and speaking skills. They are introduced to new vocabulary, ways of thinking, relating ideas, retelling stories, predicting, apply logic in various scenarios, recognizing causes and effect, and utilizing good judgment. Literacy prepares students for the next grade level, everyday life, and the future. The skills that will be acquired are: environmental awareness, phonological awareness, (awareness of the sound structure of spoken words), and eye/hand coordination. Literacy is creative because children can use their imagination to create their own image of what is being presented.

**Shell Companies Louisiana Endowment**

**Teachers:** Lakeisha Williams  
& Alaina Orgeron  
**School:** Gonzales Middle  
**Title:** A Novel Idea

**Funding:** \$2500

Our objective is for our students to become more proficient readers by reading high interest, challenging novels that address the appropriate level of text complexity as set forth by the Common Core AND cover a variety of thought-provoking topics and themes that students can connect to real world events and real life issues by: (1) With the implementation of CCSS, ELA teachers find themselves with the problem of providing high-interest, grade-level appropriate novels. Rigorous standards call for higher level novels, and with this grant, we will be able to provide all ELA teachers with the opportunity to purchase class novels that are high interest, but also address the necessary complexity for each grade level. (2) Ascension Parish School Board has four big questions to address the success of ALL of our students. Traditionally, we focus on students that are low-performing or "don't get it." Question #3 for the district asks, "What will we do for students who already get it?" Up until this point, the school has not had the resources to provide classes specifically designed to challenge our higher-performing students. This grant will provide resources to form elective classes for students in grades 7-8 interested in in-depth novel studies and gaining experience communications.

**ALLSTAR FORD LINCOLN Endowment**



# The Ascension Fund

Promoting Academic Excellence

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## Our Mission

The Ascension Fund, an instrument for private sector leaders to reward and inspire excellence in public education, invests directly in the work of individual teachers and schools through grants for innovative ideas and programs in Ascension Parish public schools.

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