

Millbrook Central School District Educational Foundation  
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**For Immediate Release**

**Millbrook Central School District School Awarded Three Grants to Support Creative School Programs**

Millbrook, NY—Educators in the Millbrook Central School District Middle School and Alden Place Elementary School looked beyond tax payer dollars to find funding for three innovative programs to support the arts and the one-year-old middle school configuration in the 2007-2008 academic year. The three projects were of such high caliber that all three were awarded funding in highly-competitive grants processes.

Anita Kiewra (Art 6-8), William Burrows (7<sup>th</sup> grade Language Arts), and Jeff Barnes (Technology) and Julie Gritten (5<sup>th</sup> grade) received a grant from the Community Foundation of Dutchess County for *Marionette Set & Stage* in which students in 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grades will use the *Marionette Set and Stage* for character education, playwriting, and social studies. Using prefabricated marionette kits, students in teams will create characters, learn to design and make clothing to outfit them as middle school students like themselves and create story lines that will incorporate concepts from the middle school character education program (i.e. Respect, Impulse control, Compassion, and Equity).

Also to support the continuance of the School of Belonging character education initiative at the middle school, a grant of \$2000 was awarded by the Northeast Dutchess Fund, a fund of the Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation. Research shows that bullying behaviors peak in middle school, making initiatives of this kind essential to the success of students in these grade levels. Assistance with writing this grant was provided by the Millbrook CSD Educational Foundation (MEF) and matching funds will also be provided by MEF to fully support this project in the 2007-2008 academic year.

Through the arts-in-education local capacity building program administered by the Dutchess County Arts Council, the middle school will also be the recipient of funds to support an artist in residence to assist students in creating a mural based on the middle school guiding principles of RICE: Respect, Impulse control, Compassion, and Equity. Additional supporting funds to support this project will also be provided by MEF.

Formed in 2001, the Millbrook Central School District Educational Foundation (MEF) is a nonprofit, public foundation whose mission is to provide funding and support for Millbrook Central School District projects and programs that are not provided for within the normal budget process. MEF raises funds through generous private sector contributions, fundraising events and an annual appeal in order to enhance the educational experience

of Millbrook Central School District students. It is the mission of the Millbrook Central School District to prepare students to deal effectively with the challenge of an ever-changing society by helping them to become humane critical thinkers, decision makers and problem solvers. For more information, please visit MEF's Web site at [www.millbrookeducationalfoundation.org](http://www.millbrookeducationalfoundation.org).

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