

# District 181 FOUNDATION



December 7, 2011

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Dear HMS Family,

As parents, one of our most rewarding experiences is seeing our children excited to go to school and fully engaged in their classes. We want to share with you a project that we think will make Hinsdale Middle School an even more stimulating learning environment for students.

At HMS, we are blessed with two exceptional eighth-grade science teachers. One of those teachers, Kelly Pelak Ditmars, wants to take our science curriculum to the next level by infusing technology in her classroom on a daily basis. Ms. Ditmars has submitted to the District 181 Foundation a grant proposal outlining her plans.

We need your help to make her vision a reality for our children this year.

As you have probably seen in your HMS student's work—or heard from their stories—the eighth-grade science curriculum is a very hands-on experience:

- The students already have been wowed by liquid nitrogen, examined lava lamps and heated up empty pop cans.
- Their year is heavy on experimentation, observation and lab work, skills our students will use in rigorous high school science programs.
- The eighth graders are expected to perform experiments and observations, collect and analyze data, and develop research skills.
- They turn all that information into charts, graphs and video presentations.

Ms. D is part of the District's 32 & U group of teachers who are receiving training in cutting-edge technology. 32 & U teachers are expected to bring knowledge back to their schools and lead the way in incorporating technology throughout our classrooms.

Ms. D would like to do that with her 180 eighth grade students by giving them guaranteed access to a computer in the classroom whenever their projects or lab work demand it. Her grant requests one laptop for each lab station in her classroom—or one computer for each pair of budding scientists—at a cost of \$25,000.

Although HMS has laptop carts in the building, they are always in high demand and cannot be guaranteed for one classroom. Ms. D and Mr. Peña believe that with dependable access to computers, our HMS eighth graders can get even more out of our science classes.

*"Kelly is a rock star on our teaching staff and we can't wait to see what our eighth graders can accomplish with constant access to computers in Ms. D's room."*

--HMS Principal Ruben Peña

Working with the HMS administration and with the backing of the HMS PTO, the D181 Foundation has committed to supporting this grant. While this project is technically not part of the District's @d181 Initiative that you may have read about, the District administration is completely supportive of this initiative and is keenly interested in the results of this effort as it works to formulate a long-term strategic plan for technology in our schools.

*"Kelly will be able to create an action research environment in her science classroom which will support our mission of promoting student creativity, problem solving and risk taking through the innovative use of technology."*

-- District 181 Superintendent Dr. Renée Schuster

Kelly Ditmars and her teaching partner Jane Fetty will work to provide data and insights about the impact of the laptops on our HMS science program. If the model is successful, it could be implemented in all D181 middle school science classrooms.


To read Ms. D's grant proposal, visit [d181foundation.org](http://d181foundation.org) and click on the link on our home page.

Will you help us in making this vision a reality?

The District 181 Foundation is seeking donations to fund this Science Classroom Initiative. Your donation by December 19 will ensure that the science lab is ready for use in January. Please make your check payable to d181 foundation and return it in the envelope provided for your convenience. You can also visit our website at [www.d181foundation.org](http://www.d181foundation.org) and donate online. Its fast, safe and secure!

While any gift would be greatly appreciated, your generous, tax-deductible donation of \$100 or more will be recognized on a plaque in the classroom, visible to current and future HMS scholars as a sign of your commitment to excellence in District 181.

We thank you in advance for your support!

  
Nancy Pollak  
President 181 Foundation

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Yes! I would like to sponsor the HMS Science Classroom Initiative:

Enclosed is my tax-deductible donation of:

\_\_\_\_\_ \$1,000: Terabyte Supporter  
\_\_\_\_\_ \$500: Gigabyte Supporter  
\_\_\_\_\_ \$250: Megabyte Supporter  
\_\_\_\_\_ \$100: Kilobyte Supporter  
\_\_\_\_\_ Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name as you would like listed on plaque

Phone Number

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: D181 Foundation, P.O. Box 715, Hinsdale IL 60522