



# Tam High Foundation Grants are Enriching Student and Academic Life for All Students at Tam

Foundation grants are awarded in response to applications submitted by Tam teachers and staff, and must further the Foundation's mission to support creative, innovative, and state-of-the-art programs and tools that enrich the education of all Tam students. Examples of recent grants include the following.

## Grants Awarded During the 2014-2015 Academic Year

### **Major Grants (Awarded Spring 2015)**

**College and Career Center Remodel.** Tam's outdated career center will be refurbished with new laptops, updated technology, and furniture to create a comfortable and accessible place for students to research post-secondary options. The remodeled space will give CCC staff greater flexibility to host workshops, one-on-one meetings, and meetings with college admissions representatives, as well as serve more students with up-to-date search tools such as Naviance.

**Language Learning Lab Replacement.** Tam's Language Learning Lab, originally funded by the Foundation 15 years ago, will be completely replaced. With new computers and state-of-the-art software, it will offer students in all grade levels even more creative and intuitive ways to interact with their peers here and abroad while mastering another language.

**Journalism Lab Replacement.** Tam's award-winning Journalism program will receive 15 Mac workstations to replace the aging Dell workstations in its computer lab. The new computers will support all of the department's print, web, and broadcast journalism projects, which in turn serve the entire Tam community.

**Documentary Filmmaking.** Michael Lavezzo's AIM and AP Literature classes will use new laptops and software to make film interpretations of poems and prose, giving students a creative new way to engage with the written word.

**eBook/Audio Book Platform for Tam Library.** The Library will receive a subscription and supporting hardware for Overdrive, a platform that will allow students to remotely check out eBooks and audio books and access them on any device, including their own personal device, for school work or pleasure reading.

**Intramural Sports Program.** Through Principal Synyard's intramural athletic program, students will be able to compete in intramural sports for fun and small prizes during lunch. The program will build community and encourage students to stay on campus.

**Leadership Summit.** Tam's four leadership programs (Leadership, Link Crew, Peer Mentoring, and Peer Resource) will participate in a twice-yearly full-day workshop with a professional leadership facilitator to improve communication and coordinate efforts among the programs, helping them better serve their peers.

**Chromebooks.** The Foundation will provide more than 100 Chromebooks to be shared by the Social Studies, English, and Peer Mentoring classes held in Wood Hall, and another 30 for Mary Wuerth's Integrated Science and AP Biology classes.

**Guest Artists in Drama, Music, and Fine Arts.** Once again, the Foundation will fund guest artists in the Drama, Studio Arts, and Music Departments. These artists provide students with invaluable experiences and knowledge through their professional expertise in these areas.

**Spoken Word Poetry With Youth Speaks.** During their poetry unit, Sophomore English students will work with the professional poets of Youth Speaks, a San Francisco-based organization that works with high schools throughout the Bay Area and emphasizes the art and dynamic of spoken word poetry.

**Marin Theater Company Collaboration.** Every Junior will have the opportunity to attend a Marin Theater Company matinee performance next year. MTC members will also visit classrooms to prepare students for the play and discuss it afterwards in this engaging and creative program that breathes life into the dramatic literature curricular requirement.

**Shakespeare Guest Artists in English Core.** Ninth and tenth graders' required study of Shakespeare will become an interactive, hands-on experience when Shakespearean actors visit their classroom to help them interpret and perform excerpts from his plays.

**Scholarships for Pathways.** Pathways is an alternative program open to all Seniors in the district that places students in internships and allows them to take COM courses in the field of their choice while completing their remaining high school course requirements. Because COM will no longer offer these courses free of charge, the Foundation will help provide the funds Pathways needs to continue to provide this invaluable opportunity.

**Experiential Learning Fund.** The Foundation replenished the Experiential Learning Fund, which the Principal uses at her discretion to fund field trips and other out-of-school learning experiences such as the Environmental Science class' recent field study in Yosemite.

### **Mini Grants (Awarded Fall 2014)**

**Four Multi-Media Learning Systems for Math Classrooms.** These interactive, state-of-the-art systems, which include screens, projectors, and wireless sketchpads, allow students to display their work and teachers to model problem solving on a widescreen display using remote keyboards and styluses.

**Laptops, Cart, and Printer for Wood Hall Classrooms.** These laptops will serve the approximately 750 students who have classes in Wood Hall, including English and Social Studies classes.

**Strategic Peer Mentoring Program.** This new elective class will provide juniors and seniors with professional guidance in mentoring twenty at-risk freshmen and sophomores who desire peer support in navigating academic, social and emotional challenges.

**Keyboards, covers and styluses for the Science Department.** These accessories will help students and teachers make better use of the iPads purchased by the Foundation in 2014.

**Holiday Student Art Show.** This show, which will recur annually, will enable Studio Arts students to display their work in a covered tent on the Tam grounds. The fair will be open during the school day and evening, and is a great opportunity for parents, peers, siblings, and MVMS students to learn more about Tam's Studio Arts program.

**Twin Post Vehicle Lift for Auto Shop.** This critical tool will replace a twenty-year-old hydraulic lift that was in need of significant repair.

**Library Extended Hours.** The Foundation will continue its support for this popular program, paying the salary of an aide to keep the library open from 4 PM until 7 PM Mondays through Thursdays.

**Link Crew.** The Foundation continued to fund the Link Crew program, by which students provide peer support and leadership for one another in social, academic, and self-government areas.

**Other Mini Grants** will fund databases for the library, graphing calculators for Math, Kindles for AP Literature, modular desks and stools for Social Studies and English, a narrative nonfiction book project for English Core, and student internships for Special Ed, among other programs.