

Education Excellence

PRIVATE AND PAROCHIAL SCHOOLS NEWSLETTER



At HMH® we hope your school year is off to a great start! As your classes settle in, you may begin to look at ways to enhance your curriculum with engaging projects or seek professional development to acquire new skills. In this issue we explore some basic ways to raise the funds

to make these endeavors possible, congratulate our first ever Education Excellence Award Winners, and more. We wish you best of luck as you continue into this new school year!



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Funding Your Classroom

The beginning of the school year is the perfect time to bring fresh ideas into the classroom and hone in on professional development. However, new ventures also come with a price tag that can be challenging for many schools. Fortunately there are many sources of grants and funding available to bring your ideas to life.

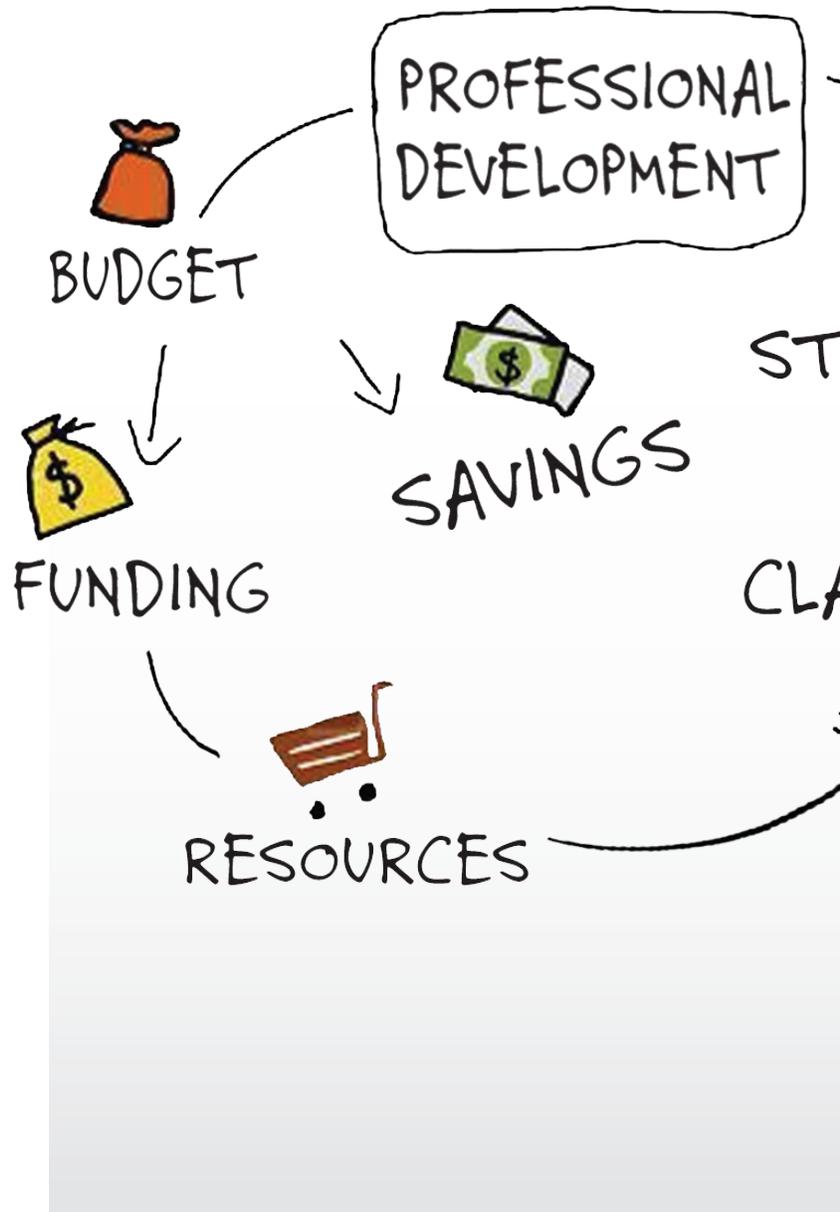
Federal and Private Funding

There are two main types of additional funding available for schools: federal and private. Each year, billions of dollars are awarded through federal grants and funding to help schools cover the costs of instructional materials, staff, professional development and innovative technology. These include Title I, II, III, and IV, along with IDEA, all of which are allocated for various purposes.

Additionally, philanthropic organizations and corporate foundations provide billions of dollars each year to educational causes such as literacy, technology, professional development, STEM education and more. Private grants are a reward or prize, often monetary, given by either a private or public official to a private individual or entity, which usually includes nonprofit 501(c)(3) organizations and public and private schools. Funds awarded by foundations are typically smaller amounts and benefit a specific teacher or school initiative. Foundations usually accept applications in one of three ways: year-round with rolling deadlines, during a specific timeframe, or upon invitation only.

Teacher Development through Title II

Title II, Part A, also known as Effective Teachers and Leaders State Grants, increases academic achievement



by improving teacher and principal quality. This program is carried out by:

- Increasing the number of highly qualified teachers in classrooms.
- Increasing the number of highly qualified principals and assistant principals in schools.
- Increasing the effectiveness of teachers and principals by holding local education agencies (LEAs) and schools accountable for improvements in student academic achievement.



Invigorate Your Classroom with Private Teacher Grants

Many corporations and organizations offer small grants that teachers, or even students, can apply for in order to fund unique classroom experiences. One example is the Target Field Trip grant, which recognizes the increasing difficulties that schools face in funding learning opportunities outside of the classroom. The grant is awarded each year to schools across the nation in amounts up to \$700.

Another example are the Kids in Need Foundation Teacher Grants, which help teachers purchase classroom materials for innovative projects in all subject areas and grades. Along with the funding application, the foundation's website provides a library of past project winners which makes it a great place to go for new ideas to implement in the classroom. One example of a past social studies project submitted by Jefferson School in New Ulm, Minnesota asked third graders to pack a truck of ten valuable items they would need to travel the Oregon Trail and then explain their choices through journal entries. Grants are provided in amounts from \$100 to \$500.

Need help investing in your school's future? *The HMH Grants and Funding team assists educators throughout the school funding/grant process from start to submission. We can help to identify an appropriate grant opportunity, consult on an overall program design, work collaboratively with the local grant contact, and assist with writing and reviewing completed proposals prior to submission. Learn more about our education services at hnhco.com.*

Funds are distributed to LEAs through state education associations (SEAs) which receive funds on a formula basis. LEAs submit an application based on needs assessment to the SEA, which includes descriptions of the activities they propose to undertake, how the activities align with state academic content standards, student academic achievement standards and state assessments. Among the flexible purposes for which these funds can be spent is professional development, including courses on using technology in the classroom, such as the new Digital Learning Suite from HMH.

Target Field Trip Grant

Apply between Aug 1 and Sept 30

Amounts up to \$700

Apply at target.com/fieldtripgrants

Kids in Need Foundation Teacher Grants

Deadline to apply: Sept 30

Amounts up to \$500

Apply at kinf.org/grants



Customer Spotlight

A Conversation with Sister Mary Marta Abbott and the Diocese of Knoxville — implementation of their new English Language Arts program.

HMH: What led to your decision in adopting the English Language Arts series Journeys?

DK: “Relationships are very important to us in our Diocese. HMH has always been a leader in quality instructional resources and materials. When we reviewed the textbooks through our process, HMH® Journeys seemed to be the textbook that most closely adhered to and promoted the college and career readiness standards that we wanted to implement for our students. Additionally, HMH® Journeys provided something no other textbook company provided and that was the Catholic identity piece within the textbooks. This additional component gave evidence to our belief that this publishing company HMH® really understood and cared about our mission as Catholic schools. Additionally, by selecting one series, our Diocese was able to achieve more buying power and a greater reduction in cost to individual schools. It is beneficial to our Diocese to be able to map the curriculum and provide professional development with one common series.”

HMH: Implementing a new program across several schools takes careful planning and consistent communication with your staff. What professional development offerings have you put in place to train educators?

DK: “In the beginning all schools had professional development training on the series and the use of the technology component for the series. Correlations were provided to the Iowa Assessments from the representative working with our professional development portion. Additionally, our Director of Curriculum and Instruction held a summer workshop on the integration of Catholic identity and the use of Curriculum by Design for the Language Arts teachers.”



HMH: *What successes have you seen with both students and educators since the adoption?*

DK: “Educators have had the ability to do greater collaboration and curriculum mapping work together using the same resource. Bringing in the **ThinkCentral** technology component has increased technology integration and has been a great benefit for educators, students and parents. Educators have also been able to utilize the reading series to integrate and extend the religion content, allowing for greater synthesis of standards and objectives. Because of the increased non-fiction, educators have been able to do more cross-curricular activities. Students are improving in all of the language arts strands of reading, writing, speaking, and listening. Oral and written language use is getting greater attention.”

HMH: *What feedback have you received from your educators and parents?*

DK: “The educators have been positive for the most part. However, in the lowest grades (K-2), they do feel that there is not enough attention on phonemic awareness and structure. The preschool teachers have been very pleased with the resources. Parents have been positive about the series. Some parents objected to the fact that CCSS was indicated on the textbook, but they have not objected to the actual content.”

HMH: *How have the Common Core State Standards affected your Diocese?*

DK: “Our Diocese reviews curriculum standards for every content area every five years. With any formal review process of standards, the Director of Curriculum and Instruction organizes a representative group of teacher leaders in the specialized content area to meet and review the standards. The standards are then evaluated based on how they fit with our mission as a Catholic church and our goals for student learning. The committee works on adapting, creating or revising standards. These curriculum standards are then sent to grade level teachers in every school for further vetting. The development and revision process takes at least 2 years for every content area. During the second year, of the 2 year phase, the Diocese also reviews instructional resources or textbooks. There is a definitive process of review that begins with a textbook evaluation instrument aligned to the

Diocesan curriculum standards for the content area.

The greatest difficulty with CCSS has been the professional development required to understand the instructional shifts. There has been a lack of urgency around the issue of CCSS resulting in an observed lack of evidence of CCSS shifts in classrooms. There are several reasons this has occurred including the controversy around CCSS, but equally as important are the following reasons. Because the current standardized assessment is not entirely aligned to the CCSS, a lack of appropriate instructional resources, and a lack of focused training, teachers have not fully implemented the shifts in their practices.”

Sister Mary Marta Abbott, R.S.M.

Sister Mary Marta is a perpetually professed Sister with the Religious Sisters of Mercy of Alma, Michigan and is the Superintendent of Catholic Schools in the Diocese of Knoxville, TN which includes two diocesan high schools, seven parish elementary schools, and one regional elementary school. Sister Mary Marta has instituted a definitive catechetical formation program for all Catholic school educators in the Diocese of Knoxville and is earnestly working towards developing future Catholic school leaders. Prior to becoming superintendent in June 2011, Sister Mary Marta served as an elementary teacher at St. John the Baptist Catholic School in Milwaukie, Oregon and as the Associate Director at Catholic Youth Camp in McGregor, Minnesota. Sister Mary Marta is a native Texan and a convert to the Roman Catholic Church. She earned a Bachelor of Arts in Elementary Education from the University of Portland, Oregon. She also holds a Master of Education for Principalship and an Education Specialist Degree in Educational Leadership with a concentration in Central Office/ Superintendence from Saginaw Valley State University, Michigan. Sister loves being with people, and she enjoys spending time in the great outdoors. When speaking to students or faculty, she always likes to remind everyone that our goal in life is to become a saint.

For more information about the Diocese of Knoxville, please visit: <http://dioknox.org/schools/>



Education Excellence Award 2015

Announcing the First Ever HMH® Education Excellence Award Winners

Houghton Mifflin Harcourt™ is proud to announce the winners of our inaugural Education Excellence Award for private and parochial schools. These educators, nominated by their peers, have demonstrated outstanding service to their schools and students through their innovative contributions aimed at driving student achievement.

Thank you to all those who submitted nominations, and congratulations to our winners!

2015 Winners



-  **Christy Cleugh**— Oaks Christian Online School, Westlake Village, CA
-  **Kristen Fluent**— Bishop Kenny High School, Jacksonville, FL
-  **Nancy Henderson**— Academy at Charlemont, Charlemont, MA
-  **Tammie Ismail**— AQSA School, Bridgeview, IL
-  **Brandon Lewis**— St. John Vianney High School, Kirkwood, MO
-  **Mary Meyer**— V.J. & Angela Skutt Catholic High School, Omaha, NE
-  **Barb Mezyk**— Trinity High School, River Forest, IL
-  **Annie Muddiman**— St. James the Greater, Cincinnati, OH
-  **Dylan Ryder**— The School at Columbia University, New York, NY
-  **Anne Schaefer-Salinas**— Notre Dame High School, Belmont, CA





Conferences and Events



It's a Wrap!

CONNECT. CONVERSE. CULTIVATE.

As we wrap up our **2015 Education Leadership Summit**, with one more to go in San Jose this October, we want to offer a special thanks to all of our private, parochial and charter school attendees for making events across the country a success!

18 events across 18 different cities, bringing together over 430 educators through 72 presentations and workshops delivered by 37 facilitators.



"The event armed me with lots of tools and data to embark on the next step of the digital learning journey at my school. THANK YOU! "
– Atlanta Education Leadership Conference attendee



"All presentations were condensed and information rich. I felt that none of the day was wasted. Thank you to all who strived to make it that way and giving private, parochial, and charter schools an up-to-date look at what's happening in digital education. Thank you all."
– Cleveland Education Leadership Summit attendee



"I left the summit with practical ideas and information based on research that can be applied in the classroom by teachers and administrators."
– Boston Education Leadership Summit attendee



"The information was useful, well presented, and the event well organized with materials close at hand. The hospitality was wonderful! What a great day!"
– Newport Beach Education Leadership Summit attendee





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9/16/2015 - 9/16/2015	HARRISBURG DIOCESE EDUCATION CONFERENCE - Harrisburg, PA
9/21/2015 - 9/21/2015	CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF WICHITA - HOT IN THE CLASSROOM - Wichita, KA
9/25/2015 - 9/25/2015	CATHOLIC SCHOOLS OF ARKANSAS - 79TH ANNUAL PROFESSIONAL DAY - Little Rock, AR
10/2/2015 - 10/2/2015	TEACHER EXCELLENCE DAY - Seattle, WA
10/8/2015 - 10/9/2015	SAVANNAH DIOCESAN EDUCATION INSTITUTE - Augusta, GA
10/8/2015 - 10/9/2015	GEORGIA ASSOC OF CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS EDUCATORS CONFERENCE - Savannah, GA
10/12/2015 - 10/12/2015	DIOCESE OF ALLENTOWN EDUCATIONAL CONVENTION - Bethlehem, PA
10/15/2015 - 10/16/2015	NORTH CAROLINA CHRISTIAN SCHOOL ASSOCIATION - Greensboro, NC
10/18/2015 - 10/18/2015	2015 SAIS ANNUAL CONFERENCE - Atlanta, GA
10/22/2015 - 10/22/2015	HMH EDUCATION LEADERSHIP SUMMIT - San Jose, CA
10/22/2015 - 10/23/2015	MANS 2015 EDUCATION CONFERENCE AND EXPO - Detroit, MI
10/23/2015 - 10/23/2015	NCAIS CONFERENCE - High Point, NC
10/29/2015 - 10/30/2015	FLORIDA ASSOCIATION OF CHRISTIAN COLLEGE & SCHOOLS - Orlando, FL

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