

# Westport Education Foundation

Fostering a culture of excellence in the Westport Community Schools

Public schools across the country have struggled for years to find the funding for their basic needs. In the last two years, that funding has become even more difficult to secure; the collapse of the economy along with the mortgage sector triggered a domino effect that resulted in high unemployment and drastically reduced tax income. In Massachusetts, state funding to public schools has significantly decreased; Westport will receive \$175,552 less from the state for the upcoming school year than it did last year. That funding decrease, combined with rising costs in healthcare and mandated special education expenses, is causing some dramatic changes to our schools. Westport lost one teacher per grade at the elementary and middle schools, causing class sizes to rise by 15-20%; in some cases there will be 30 children in a classroom.

Approximately 25% of public school districts nationwide are now supplemented by education foundations. Foundations typically do not fund "the basics," (i.e. classroom teachers and sports programs) because they cannot sustain salaries for long periods of time. Instead, they fund academic enrichment programs that

help give teachers the resources they need to expose students to new and interesting concepts and experiences beyond the regular curriculum. We are preparing students for the next generation of innovations that will drive our future economy to places we cannot yet imagine. Our children will someday compete against another candidate for a new job, or sit next to another student in a college classroom, or submit a piece of artwork to a gallery. We want Westport students to feel proud and confident that they were offered the same or better opportunities for success in each situation. Our hope is that these students will thrive in a way that benefits everyone in our community - that they find interesting and productive ways to say "thank you" for the beginning we gave them. To this end, the Westport Education Foundation will:

- **Promote and enhance educational excellence by providing independent funding that would not typically be covered by the school budget for worthy educational projects, enrichment programs, and other educational initiatives beyond the standard curriculum**
- **Foster a culture of excellence in the Westport Community Schools by inspiring students and supporting teachers with innovative learning opportunities**
- **Enrich the public school curriculum with programs and activities that expose students to diverse learning experiences, and challenge students to reach well beyond their current abilities**

*We want Westport students to feel proud and confident that they were offered the same or better opportunities for success*



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Westport High School

# You Can Help Make It Happen

Please consider giving to the Westport Education Foundation to help build our future. We can only offer programs to our students that we can fund. Funding starts with all of us.

If you are a community member or a business owner, please consider the benefits a strong public education brings to a community. Education produces more knowledgeable and motivated workers for local businesses, and more creative leaders to start new businesses. Strong public schools can reduce a town's crime rate, and according to the National Bureau of Economic Research, increase in per pupil spending increases median house property values suggesting that better schools make economic sense for everyone.

If you are a family with children in the public school system, please consider the value these special programs could bring to your child(ren) and make a donation. With approximately 1900 students in our schools, even a small donation per child will allow us to fund all of the programs listed and much more.

## Give a Gift

I want to enrich the educational, cultural & civic experience of the students in the Westport public schools.

I pledge the following amount:

\$  Other     \$1000     \$100  
 \$5000     \$500     \$50  
 \$2500     \$250     \$25

This commitment will be made as follows:

Gift enclosed (**Please make check payable to CFSEMA**)

Please charge my credit card:  MC  Visa  Discover

Account Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name (please print): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail tax deductible donations to:

**Westport Education Foundation Fund**  
**PO Box N662**  
**Westport, MA 02790**

Please bill me: \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Monthly  Quarterly  Semi-Annually  Annually

Please make my gift in  honor of /  in memory of:  
\_\_\_\_\_

Please send an acknowledgement of my gift to:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

May we use your name as a donor?  Yes  No

May we publicize your gift?  Yes  No

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

*Thank you* for supporting **The Westport Education Fund**

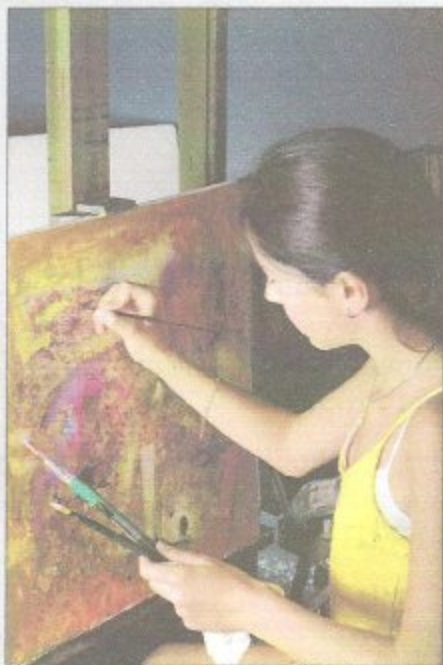
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## 2010 -2011 Programs

Grants will be made to teachers, with the support of their school principal, who make proposals to the foundation for exciting and innovative programs. Examples of programs that the WEF would like to fund this year include:

- Training to establish an advanced placement math program at the High School.
- Support for after school programs at the High School.
- Destination Imagination program for creativity, teamwork and problem solving at the Middle School.
- Enrichment programs for middle school clubs (art, writing, etc.).
- Computer-based workshops and projects at the Elementary School
- Author studies at the Elementary School.
- Support for the integrated arts program at the Macomber Primary School.



**COMMUNITY FOUNDATION**  
of Southeastern Massachusetts

## In Partnership with the Community Foundation of Southeastern Massachusetts (CFSEMA)

The Westport Education Foundation is in partnership with the CFSEMA, which allows us to leverage their resources and gives our donors the peace of mind that our funds are being managed professionally. This relationship also offers us connections to other education foundations with the CFSEMA, such as those in Dartmouth and Old Rochester Tri Town, to share best practices.

The Community Foundation is a public charity and is classified as a 501(c)(3) organization, making all gifts tax deductible in accordance with the law. Gifts can be made in the form of cash, securities, real estate, life insurance, and other recognized forms of giving such as lead trusts, life income unitrusts, and group memorial funds. For more information on the CFSEMA, visit [cfsema.org](http://cfsema.org).

*Printing Courtesy of Troy Printing, Somerset, MA*

# Imagine...



► A group of twelve-year old students working on a creative problem-solving project to compete in the International Odyssey of the Mind Program

► High school students learning from a cutting edge marine sciences program in partnership with MIT

► Second graders building a monarch butterfly garden/habitat to increase their understanding of life cycles and to create a resource for the community

► First graders engaged in an incubator project that exposes students to science enrichment activities including hatching, observing and journaling

*These are among the many projects being funded by education foundations across Massachusetts*

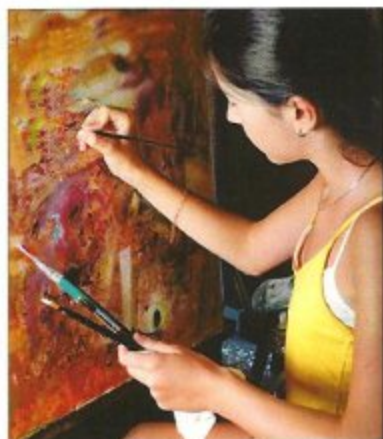
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## 2010 - 2011 Programs

### Art Club Mural Project



The Blue Waves at Westport Middle School will soon be enjoying a better view in the cafeteria. WMS art teacher Alicia McGuire has been awarded an Education Foundation grant to work with the art club to conceptualize, design and create a new mural. The students will consider what defines their school and broader community and integrate those ideas into the mural design.

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### The Granny Awards for Music

The Westport Education Foundation joined the Westport Music Boosters to award a grant to WES music teacher Marlo Dennis, who is working with two other teachers to direct this musical. This project will give students an opportunity to gain knowledge in the choral arts, drama and dance, enriching their education in a very positive way. This will also allow students attending the performance to feel a sense of pride for fellow students and gives them something to look forward to in the third and fourth grade.



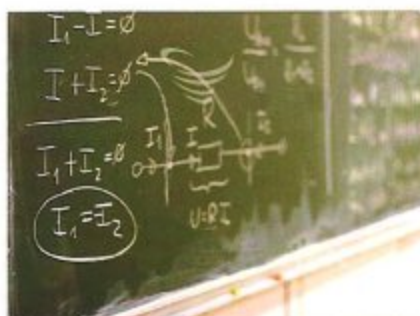
### Destination ImagiNation®

Middle School students will participate in the Destination ImagiNation® program. This program builds students' skills in creativity, problem solving, and teamwork. Students work in teams to tackle a DI Challenge and will compete in a regional tournament



in Carver, MA in March. The categories of the 2010-2011 Destination ImagiNation® challenges are technical, scientific, finearts, improvisational, structural and project OUTREACH.

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### AP Calculus

Two teachers from Westport High School attended training to establish a Pre-AP and AP Calculus curriculum.

AP enables students to pursue college-level studies while still in high school and provides students with the opportunity to earn college credit. Taking AP courses also demonstrates to college admission officers that students have sought out the most rigorous curriculum available to them. Having an AP Calculus class at WHS will allow our students, especially those interested in the more competitive colleges and programs, to demonstrate their ability in math.

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Programs funded by the Westport Education Foundation as of January 2011