



The Torch

Newsletter of the Nyack Teacher Center

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September . . .

New faces . . . new challenges . . . a new beginning. September is one of the special things about our profession. Each year we get the unique opportunity to start over with a new group of students. Whether this is your first beginning or your thirty-first, may it be your best yet.

Call for MiniGrant Proposals

Is there a project you've been wanting to do with your students? an issue you'd like to examine with your colleagues? an instructional approach you'd like to explore in depth? The Teacher Center's MiniGrant Program was designed to allow you to do all of these things, and more.

There are two types of NTC MiniGrant awards -

1. The traditional MiniGrant is designed to support instruction. Awards can be used to help develop a teaching unit, to produce materials for classroom instruction, to plan a new innovative classroom or school-wide program, or other unique, creative educational project.
2. The Professional Development MiniGrant is designed to support the pursuit of a professional goal. Awards can be used in a variety of ways, including:
 - to support the work of a "Study Group" or a "Critical Friends" group,
 - to cover registration at a professional conference,
 - to support an action research project,
 - to support peer coaching,
 - to facilitate inter and intra-district visitations.

The Center is now accepting applications for MiniGrants for 2003-2004. **The deadline for submission of proposals is the last Friday in October - October 31st.** Applications are available from your Policy Board Representative, or you can call the Center (353-7060) and we'll send one to you. MiniGrant awards range from \$50 to \$500.

If you'd like help writing a grant proposal, come to the **Grant Writing Workshop on Thursday, September 25th**. Please call ahead to reserve a seat at the session.

Nyack Teacher Center

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We're on the Web!

See us at:
www.nyackschools.com/ntc

Toshiba Grants Program for Science & Math, K-12

The Toshiba America Foundation is inviting public and private school teachers to apply for grants to support the teaching of science and/or math.

Last year 96 K-6 projects received grants ranging from \$300 to \$1000 through this program. Projects covered a myriad of topics, including solar energy, oceanic habitats, map-making, erosion, recycling, etc. To see brief descriptions of the projects that were funded last year, go to www.toshiba.com/about/taf/tafk6.html. Proposals for grades K-6 must be submitted by October 1st. This is the 6th year of this program. If you aren't ready to submit a proposal this year, you might want to begin to think about applying next year.

The program for grades 7-12 accepts applications throughout the year for projects requiring less than \$5000. Applications are due February 1st and August 1st for projects over \$5000. For brief descriptions of projects that have been funded recently - for amounts ranging from \$1,250 to \$24,000 - go to www.toshiba.com/taf/7-12.html.

Toyota Grants for Science, K-12

The 2004 Toyota TAPESTRY program will award 50 grants of up to \$10,000 each, and a minimum of 20 "mini-grants" of up to \$2,500 each, to K-12 teachers of science. Interested teachers should propose innovative science projects that can be implemented in their school or school district over a one-year period. Toyota TAPESTRY funds projects that demonstrate creativity, involve risk-taking, possess a visionary quality, and model a novel way of presenting science. If you have a great way to make science come alive, apply for a Toyota TAPESTRY grant.

This program, sponsored by Toyota, and administered by the National Science Teachers Association, has awarded 552 grants over the past 12 years. This year grants will be awarded in three categories: Environmental Science, Physical Science Applications, and Literacy and Science Education. Applications are due by January 14th, 2004.

Homework Help Online

One website that provides resources for students K-12, and for teachers as well, is B.J. Pinchbeck's Homework Helper - <http://school.discovery.com/homeworkhelp/bjpinchbeck>. Here you'll find links to more than 700 quality sites, mainly categorized by school subject. Under [Math links](#), for example, there are 20+ sites ranging from basic math to algebra and geometry. There are also links for [Science](#), [Social Studies](#), [English](#), [History](#), [Music and Art](#), and [Foreign Languages](#). There is a [News and Current Events](#) section, which contains links to various news sites and newspapers. [Computers and the Internet](#) includes lots of "How to" sites for potential web masters.

[The Teacher's Corner](#) contains lesson plans grouped by subject. [The Reference Desk](#) provides an extensive list of links to dictionaries, encyclopedias, and other reference materials.

Search tips are also available on the site, with general advice, i.e., "the key to finding information on the Net is to make sure that your request is as specific as possible".