The Marietta Times: Grant helps Belpre students score higher on... http://www.mariettatimes.com/news/story/new98_417200782058.asp





Tuesday, April 17, 2007 - Time: 8:20:58 AM EST

LOCAL NEWS

Front page

- Business
 Classifieds
- Community Calendar
- Editorials
- Entertainment
- Local columns
- Letters to the editor
- Neighborhood news
 News
- News
 Obituaries
- OURSpace
- Bridal guide
- Engagements
- Weddings
- Readers Feedback
- Guestbook
- Corrections

SECTIONS

- Brides and Grooms Jan '07
- Buyer's Guide
- Home Hunters April 2007
- Lawn & Garden
- Progress First Edition 2007

Progress - Second Edition 2007

Spring Home Improvement

Spring Sports 2007



NEWS

- Ohio
- West Virginia
- National
 International

SPORTS

- Local/state
- National
- Marietta Y5 Road Run

Grant helps Belpre students score higher on tests

By Jolene Craig, Special to The Times

BELPRE — The board of education learned Monday about a national grant students at Belpre Middle School are participating in.

Becci Hartline, sixth-grade math teacher at Belpre Middle School, discussed the Science and Technology Enrichment for Appalachian Middle-schoolers (STEAM) program, which integrates graduate student-produced video games with math to help the students better understand difficult concepts.

"We've been tracking the data and have had a lot of success with the different grades of middle-schoolers," Hartline said.

Work on the \$1.67 million grant at Ohio University began in August 2006 and will continue for three years. To date, the program has produced more than a dozen video games that have been released on the Internet for everyone to use.

"We have found that the games are incredibly popular," Hartline said. The study has shown a 12 percent increase in test scores since the program began.

"The exciting thing is, these games will be published onto the Web and our kids in Belpre are at the grassroots level," she said.

In other business:

The board approved to allow Tom Binegar, principal of Belpre Elementary School and Stone Elementary School, to purchase a sign for \$679 to direct people to Belpre Elementary School, off Stone Road.

The sign will be purchased from a promised \$1,000 grant from the Belpre Community Foundation and will be placed off Stone Road near Belpre High School.



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The board approved 96 students for graduation from Belpre High School as the Class of 2007, contingent upon the completion of graduation requirements, payment of fees and fines and other responsibilities required by the administration and teachers.

The June meeting has been switched from June 19 to June 25 to allow financial reports to be finished.









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