

LFHS Foundation

Foundation Thanks Donors for Last Minute Contributions

Thank you donors, for supporting our “Down to the Wire” promotion with a last-minute donation toward upcoming Spring grants. We are proud to announce that educators submitted \$270,000 in grant requests for the Spring grant review process. We plan to vote on grant awards in mid-April. We also plan to alert each fortunate recipient shortly after voting is complete. Be on the lookout in future communications for the new Spring 2009 grant award list.

LFHS Foundation’s Teacher Excellence Grant Helps Fund Tuition for English Teacher

The NBPTS is the National Board of Professional Teaching Standards. A certification from the NBPTS has become the single most-recognized credential for accomplished teaching in the United States. Teachers who undertake this program are seeking to improve their classroom practice through rigorous self-reflection, goal setting, and study. The NBPTS has certified over 74,000 teachers since 1987. **Dr. Amy Birtman** in the English Department is the first teacher at LFHS to earn this prestigious certification.

The process reviews a teacher’s work by looking at four aspects of his or her teaching: work with both small and large groups, the students’ work, and the teacher’s documented accomplishments. The Board does not “grade” the quality of the lesson plan or the eloquence of the teacher’s delivery. Rather, the Board looks at the students’ response to the lesson. They ask the teacher to show evidence: proof that every student in his or her classroom walks away with an understanding of the material presented. The Board considers the skill to deliver instruction so that every student understands the material essential to receiving the Master Teacher certification.

According to **Dr. Birtman**, her job was to prove that every student in every class was responding to the material and her teaching methods. She would watch a video from the day’s lesson to give her insight into both her successes and when she was not connecting with all of her students. Just when she thought the lesson was a rousing success, she would catch a student sitting in the wings, not engaged and just watching. Back to the drawing board!

Those teachers who complete the certification process go the extra mile to prepare our students to be successful in college and in their careers. **Dr. Amy Birtman** is our district’s first, thanks to the Teacher Excellence Grant funded by the Foundation! (complete article can be found at www.lfhsfoundation.org.)

“Amy is a pioneer and a leader. Her dedication to teaching and lifelong learning is contagious and her willingness to share will benefit students and staff. LFHS and I congratulate Amy and thank the Foundation for their help.” *Jay Hoffmann*