

**SYDNOR AND MIRIAM REISS
TEACHERS FUND FOR FURTHER STUDY, INC.**

Apply Now for A Grant To Enrich Your Summer!

**Reiss Scholarship Applications Available
For Darien Teachers
To Advance Creative Personal Growth
With Reiss Fund Awards**

Each year, Darien Teachers receive Reiss grants to further their own personal and professional growth and enrichment through opportunities to....

- ✓ Write
- ✓ Study
- ✓ Explore a related field
- ✓ Examine another culture
- ✓ Learn a new teaching style
- ✓ Study the latest information in the field

The Reiss Fund awards are designed to foster excellence in the Darien Public Schools by providing support to Darien teachers for projects and activities that are beyond the scope of the normal “in-service” program of the school system.

The Sydnor and Miriam Reiss Teachers Fund for Further Study, Inc. was established in memory of the late chairman of the Darien Board of Education, Sydnor V. Reiss, and his wife Miriam Macgregor, for the purpose of fostering excellence in Darien schools by providing Darien teachers with creative study opportunities. Individuals from both within and outside of Darien annually contribute funds to support this fund and its goals.

**Applications are being accepted now for summer 2012.
Deadline: Thursday, March 1st**

BACKGROUND AND PROCEDURES

Who may apply?

- All certified Darien staff members. Staff members who are proposing identical projects should not submit identical applications. Each application needs to stand on its own merit and each applicant needs to convey a sense of his/her individual commitment to the proposal, and his/her unique connection to the project.

What kind of work will be considered?

- Individual initiatives, projects or activities that are beyond the scope of normal staff development programs such as: research, further study, and educational projects or related programs.
- The fund will not support normal CEU requirements or work toward graduate degrees.
- Initiatives, projects or activities must not require any release time from work.

Where does the money come from?

- Yearly, Darien citizen volunteers solicit community members for contributions to the fund.
- The continued health and growth of the fund is dependent upon the generosity of individual citizens who, with their contributions, underscore the high regard the community has for its teachers.

Why does the Reiss Fund exist?

- The mission of the Reiss Fund is to foster excellence of teaching and learning in the Darien schools.
- Supporting the life-long learning of educators is one way to achieve this goal.

How are the applications selected?

- An application is judged according to its consistency with the Reiss Fund mission, its potential contribution to an applicant's personal and professional growth, and potential contribution to students and the school.
- Applicants need to enthusiastically communicate the appeal which the proposal holds for them. Applicants need to present a sense of conviction about the value of the proposal. It is essential that the applicant explain how (specifically) the experience will affect them in their ability to give back to students and the school.
- In addition, the committee considers: school distribution equity (elementary/secondary), number of applicants, and amount of money available.
- Applications will be screened by a Selection Committee consisting of members of the community, one administrator and one teacher, all appointed by the Board of Directors of the Corporation.
- This Committee will make recommendations for awards to the Board of Directors, which will submit them to the Board of Education for its approval.
- Financial need of the applicant is not considered.
- Proposals that are not funded in any given year may be resubmitted in a subsequent year.

Proposals for summer 2012 will be approved and announced in April, 2012. The number of scholarships will be decided on the basis of funds available and the merit of work proposed.

Applications should be submitted to:

**The Sydnor and Miriam Reiss Teachers Fund for Further Study, Inc.,
c/o Darien Board of Education, Attention: Nadine Vasil
2 Renshaw Road, P.O. Box 1167, Darien, CT 06820-1167
FAX: 656-3052 or E-MAIL: nvasil@darienps.org**

SYDNOR AND MIRIAM REISS TEACHERS FUND FOR FURTHER STUDY, INC.

Topics previously supported by the Reiss Fund include:

- La Meridiana International in Tuscany, Italy course in ceramic art techniques including Vapour Glazing
- Travel to Moscow and St. Petersburg to expand current study of Russian art and history
- Visit to Shanghai, Beijing, Xian, Chendu, Tibet, Wuhan, and Hong Kong , including sailing on the Yantze River
- Earthwatch expedition at the Pelican Lagoon Research and Wildlife Centre on Kangaroo Island in Adelaide, South Australia which included observation of short-beaked echidnas
- Linguistics course at Manhattanville College to explore the underlying structure of human languages
- Visit to Spain and Portugal to study the Rock of Gibraltar and the limestone sea caves of the Algarve region
- Phillips Exeter Academy Mathematics , Science and Technology Conference
- James Randi Educational Foundation Conference for teaching of science and math
- Tenth Forensic Science Educational Conference sponsored by the American Academy of Forensic Sciences at Indiana University
- Peabody Conservatory's *Piano at Peabody Institute* at Johns Hopkins University
- Seminar Courses presented by the Language Circle Series of Minnesota as part of the *Project READ* program
- Earthwatch expedition to Tamil Nadu, India
- Travel to Australia, New Zealand, Fiji and Hawaii to photograph and create a visual reference of native plants
- Non-credit courses - Web Publishing for Educators, Internet Applications for Educators, Aquatic Ecosystems & Research Methods
- Earthwatch expedition to the Meso-American Barrier Reef ecosystem located off the shores of Port Honduras in Belize
- Independent research at the LBJ Presidential Library and the development of a high school American Studies unit on the "Great Society"
- Participation in the "Space Academy" sponsored by the U.S. Air Force Academy at the U.S. Space Foundation
- Visit to Chile to tour the Paranal Observatory and the world's largest open pit copper mine, Chuquicamata, located in Atacama Desert

The best teachers are life-long learners.