



Lake County  
Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service ®  
Amateur Radio Emergency Service ®  
1303 North Milwaukee Avenue  
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For Immediate Release

## **Two Zion Elementary Schools Awarded Equipment Grants**

Libertyville, IL, January 16, 2009 -- **Background:** The ARRL is the national association for Amateur Radio in the US. Often called “ham” radio operators, the 154,000+ members of the ARRL provide programs to aid schools and teachers in sharing the excitement of wireless technologies. Among these programs, the ARRL sponsors the Education and Technology Program (ETP), which has the goal of facilitating the integration of wireless technology into participating school curricula. The ARRL provides curriculum development support, resource libraries, funding for correcting contingencies that present a deterrent to a school’s program (Progress Grants), grants of ham station equipment (ETP Grants), and the teachers institute in-service training.

Twice each year, the ARRL Executive Committee reviews the ETP and Progress grant applications and makes award determinations. The EC approved 9 school grants in June 2008 and awarded \$13,500 in support and materials. In December 2008, 21 schools were approved in this newest increment of grants and it is valued at approximately \$22,000.

Nathan McCray, Assistant Principal at West Elementary School in Zion, is a licensed amateur radio operator with the call sign of “K9CPO” and a member of Lake County Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES) and Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES). This group provides a pool of emergency communications personnel for the Lake County Emergency Management Agency (EMA) in times of need.

McCray has been actively promoting amateur radio in the classroom for the past several years. He was instrumental in obtaining the first ETP grant for East Elementary School in 2005, along with the support of Lake County RACES/ARES. This new curriculum has “sparked” interest in electronics, robotics and radio at East and now West Elementary Schools thanks to the ETP Grant Program. Several kids have gone ahead and passed their FCC test to earn their “ham” license. There is a saying that goes; “You talk to your friends with cell phones, but you MAKE friends with ham radio”. They are now finding this out for themselves.

### **ETP grants providing for the creation of Amateur Radio stations in schools:**

The current, and expanding, total count of ETP participant schools across the country stands at 338. There have been five schools selected in Illinois, with two of them in Zion. For a school to be considered an ETP school, they must have received some level of support from the program of monetary value (teacher’s institute participation, activity board kits, or grants of equipment). The schools selected during the December 2008 selection process include:

- Phillip Magruder Middle School, Torrance, CA
- Bradshaw Mountain Middle School, Dewey, AZ
- Worthington Public School, Worthington, MN
- West Elementary School, Zion, IL



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- Bayside Engineering & Technology Academy, Palm Bay. FL
- Malcom Bridge Middle School, Bogart, GA
- Samsula Academy, New Smyrna Beach, FL
- Horizon Elementary, Port Orange, FL
- and the McDermitt Combined School, McDermitt, NV whose main theme is Emergency Communications and exposure of the students to public service related career fields that are normally not considered by the students.

These schools, awarded the ETP Grants, will be allowed to choose from a number of Amateur Radio station packages. The packages are adjusted to accommodate their specific needs if possible, particularly antenna needs, and to remain within fiscal responsibility.

#### **Progress Grant Awards for expanding a school's curriculum:**

The following schools are expanding their existing grant program with additional equipment as follows:

- **University of Arkansas, Fort Smith, AR.** The professor wants to integrate the weather satellite system that was demonstrated during the teachers institute as a beginning to expand his program to include space in the classroom content.
- **Westside Elementary School, Searcy, AR** The teacher wants to include the space exploration through robotics unit that was presented during the teachers institute into her elementary school curriculum. She has adapted the content to the grade level of her students and has an interesting approach. The approach will use the activity to provide basic instruction of electronics.
- **Olde Towne Middle School, Ridgeland, MS** The teacher wants to integrate the ham radio satellite system that was demonstrated during the teachers institute as a beginning to expand his program to include space in the classroom content. He is requesting the basic components to make up the satellite ground station.
- **Ocean Lakes High School, Virginia Beach, VA** The teacher wants to include the space exploration unit that was presented during the teachers institute into his high school curriculum and is requesting the ancillary parts of the Mars Lander activity.
- **Livingston High School, Livingston, NJ** The teacher wants to expand the use of the activity board resources he learned about during the institute into his regular curriculum.
- **Petrova Elementary School, Saranac Lake, NY** This applicant is requesting assistance in obtaining licensing resource materials for the school radio club.
- **East Elementary, Zion, IL** The teacher wants to integrate the weather satellite system that was demonstrated during the teachers institute as a beginning to expand her program to include space in the classroom content. Additionally, she is requesting a dual-band handheld radio for use with the FM satellites.
- **Great Lakes Adventist Academy, Cedar Lake, MI** The teacher wants to integrate the weather satellite system that was demonstrated during the teachers institute as a beginning to expand his program to include space in the classroom content.
- **Sister Lakes Elementary School, Dowagiac, MI** The teacher wants to integrate the weather satellite system that was demonstrated during the teachers institute as a beginning to expand his program to include space in the classroom content.



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- **Granite Bay Montessori School, Roseville, CA** The teacher is requesting support to make the school radio station solar powered and expand the content of this program to include alternative energy sources.
- **Marist School, Atlanta, GA** The teacher wants to integrate the weather satellite system that was demonstrated during the teachers institute as a beginning to expand his program to include space in the classroom content.
- **Nichols Junior High School, Arlington, TX** The teacher wants to integrate the use of ham radio satellites into his curriculum as demonstrated during the TI. He is requesting a basic satellite ground station for working the FM satellites.

For more information on the ARRL Education and Technology Program, see their website at:  
<http://www.arrl.org/FandES/tbp/>

For more information on the Lake County R.A.C.E.S. /A.R.E.S. group, please see their web site at:  
[www.races.org](http://www.races.org) , or by email at: [information@races.org](mailto:information@races.org)

For more information on the Lake County Emergency Management Agency, see their website at:  
<http://www.lakecountyil.gov/ema/Default.htm>

To learn more about Amateur Radio, how to earn your FCC license and learn about Emergency Communication in general go to: [www.WeDoThat-radio.org](http://www.WeDoThat-radio.org)

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