Olson Elementary wins grant for digital camera from Illinois Retired Teachers Association Foundation

Olson Elementary School has been awarded a $665 grant from the Illinois Retired Teachers Association Foundation to purchase a digital camera to help students in STEAM classes tell their stories.

Maggie Jensen, Olson library media specialist, requested the grant as all Woodstock Community Unit School District 200 elementary schools are implementing STEAM (Science, Technology, Art and Math) curriculum this school year.

Jensen said Olson was fortunate to receive a grant a few years ago from the D 200 Education Foundation for a green screen and lighting, but an older iPad they'd been using to record video and sound lacked memory and sufficient audio capabilities for the project, so they sought additional funding.

Every year retired teachers donate money to the IRTAF for educators through excellence grants as well as funds to help their members in need. This year, there were 368 grant requests and 75 were funded for a total of $36,500.

“We were fortunate to be one of them. We are so grateful to the members of the Illinois Retired Teachers Association Foundation for funding our project. The kids can’t wait to take their digital storytelling to the next level,” Jensen said.

(L to R) Olson Elementary School library media specialist Maggie Jensen, Wendy Wiegers, from the Illinois Retired Teachers Association Foundation, and Olson Principal Diana Frisbie.