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Middlesex receives \$50,000 tech grant

When Middlesex Middle School opens its doors for the 2007-08 academic year, students will discover a brand new Computer Video Production Studio in Lab 130. The Darien Technology & Community Foundation recently approved a \$50,000 grant, which will provide 25 iMac computers, high definition camcorders, digital cameras and related software. Video production skills are now part of the eighth grade computer curriculum and this studio will allow students to learn in a state-of-the-art environment.

The foundation's Board of Directors was impressed with the presentation made in July by the school's computer teacher, Hilary Behrman, along with other teachers and administrators. Behrman explained that today's students are using digital video editing to make visual records of science experiments, produce historical documentaries and create digital stories. Digital video allows students to learn in the multi-sensory mode they need to process information and express themselves using the media of their time. Students are empowered as creators of content, rather than just consumers.

The grant presentation asserted that the Computer Video Production Studio is a critical component for the newly adopted K-12 technology plan. This studio supports the rigorous use of technology to move beyond the simple processing of isolated skills into a rich experience that challenges students to engage in the "higher order" thinking that the Darien Public Schools have come to expect.

The Darien Technology & Community Foundation's mission is to provide private funding for technology and community capital projects that will benefit the citizens of Darien. For more information, visit darienTCfoundation.org.

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