



## **Moon Area School District**

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For Immediate Release

### **Moon Area Elementary Schools Awarded Nearly \$40,000 in Grants, District Plans to Install Climbing Walls in Five Buildings**

Moon Area School District elementary schools' physical education programs will receive a technology upgrade thanks to \$37,880 in Highmark Healthy High 5 School Challenge grant funds.

With the funds, distributed through the Highmark Foundation, all five district elementary schools will add various components to the buildings' health and physical education curriculums allowing students to utilize the latest in fitness instruction.

The grants are part of Highmark's effort to establish healthy habits like good nutrition and physical activity for children at a young age with the hope those habits will continue into adulthood thwarting the nation's rising obesity rates. In Moon Area, the programs will reach more than 1,600 children in kindergarten through fifth grade.

Each building will receive a climbing wall and a Dance Dance Revolution video game, which already is utilized in the middle school physical education classes, and nutritional aides to help in classroom education. Additionally, Hyde Elementary will receive a Nintendo Wii game console.

The video games lend a familiarity to physical education classes as many students already are versed in playing the game systems and their associated games at home.

Physical education teachers in each elementary school submitted desired items to Highmark and most will receive additional components for their equipment or different versions than other district elementary schools.

Since 2007, the Highmark Foundation, through the Healthy High 5 School Challenge, has awarded a total of \$3.5 million in grants to 496 schools in 47 counties across the commonwealth for programs that address bullying prevention and self-esteem, improve nutrition education, enhance nutrition choices and provide opportunities for physical activity.

For more information on the grant program, visit [www.highmarkhealthyhigh5.org](http://www.highmarkhealthyhigh5.org).