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## High school grant for almost \$18,000 to fund new technology

By JULIA KAZAR | The Winchester Star Feb 8, 2017 Updated 4 hrs ago



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Suni Mackall, center, president, Clarke County Education Foundation, announces the awarding of an over \$17,000 dollar grant to Clarke County High School. The grant will be used to purchase Apple computers and software. Pictured in back from left are, CCEF board members, Mitchell Rode, Roy Emmons, treasurer, Lisa Phillipovich, Shelly Morris, Nancy Specht, Amy Lowell, CCEF executive director and Phillip Facemire, CCHS, computer science teacher.

BERRYVILLE — Students at Clarke County High School will have the opportunity to work with some of the latest technology thanks to a \$17,688 grant that will be used to purchase 11 new iMac computers. The grant was awarded by the Clarke County Education Foundation (CCEF).

Career and Technical Education teacher Phillip Facemire applied for the grant in December of 2016, but the idea first came about at the beginning of the school year.

Several of Facemire's students came to him and asked if they could learn Swift, a programming language for computer and mobile operating systems iOS, OS X, watchOS, tvOS and Linux. According to the Apple website, Swift is a powerful open language that allows everyone to build and create amazing apps. Once Facemire learned more about what Swift was, he asked his students what would be needed to make learning Swift possible.

"My students drive everything," Facemire said during the grant award ceremony.

Facemire's wife gave him an old Mac of hers that had been wiped clean, and within about two weeks the students had partially built an app.

From there, the idea grew of how beneficial it would be to the school if they could have several iMac computers in the classroom for students to work on at the same time.

With the help of his wife and a few others, Facemire wrote a grant to the Clarke County Education Foundation asking for funds for the new computer lab. The grant also includes funds to purchase Swift for all the computers.

The addition of these new computers will help prepare students for the 21st-century job market, help to make Clarke County High School more cutting edge, and give students a wide range of experience working with technology.

Not only will Facemire's students in his advanced classes benefit from the new computers, but so will yearbook students, art students, graphic design students, International Baccalaureate students and possibly others as well.

"The foundation is delighted to award this grant," Suni Mackall, president of Clarke County Education Foundation, said. "Some of our board members were on the fence about this at first, but Phillip won us over with his presentation. He is a wonderful teacher who inspires his students."

The computers are not expected to be in the school until the 2017-2018 school year, but Facemire said it is possible they could arrive this summer depending on how fast everything happens.

These will be the first Mac computers in the school.

"I'm still beside myself that we were awarded the grant," Facemire said. "I'm just overwhelmed."

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Clarke County Education Foundation is a nonprofit organization dedicated to providing private support to the Clarke County Public Schools to support its tax-supported programs, according to its website, [www.ccefinc.org/](http://www.ccefinc.org/). The foundation celebrated its 25th anniversary and has awarded more than \$2.4 million in scholarships, teacher grants, system demonstration grants and donor-defined projects. Its funds come from a combination of fundraising events and endowment income.

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