

Ambler Savings Bank Awards \$20,000 Grant to Expand Computer Literacy Programs in Wissahickon Schools



Ambler Savings Bank presents a \$20,000 donation to the Wissahickon Educational Opportunities Foundation (WEOF) to expand Computer Science Literacy programs in Wissahickon schools. Pictured top row, left to right: Pat Latimer, Co-President of WEOF; Erin Cohen, Assistant Vice President/Retail Officer; Roger Zacharia, Ambler Savings Bank President and CEO; Lisa Ruff, Blue Bell Teacher-Librarian; and Gary Abbamont, WSD Assistant Superintendent. Seated: Blue Bell Elementary students.

AMBLER - A \$20,000 grant awarded to the Wissahickon Educational Opportunities Foundation (WEOF) by Ambler Savings Bank will help expand Computer Literacy programming in all six Wissahickon schools. During a check presentation to WEOF and Wissahickon Middle School on February 28, Blue Bell Elementary students provided Ambler Savings Bank a computer coding demonstration using LEGO® Education WeDo. Students built LEGO car models featuring working motors and sensors, then programmed the cars to move and make noises.

“We are so grateful to Ambler Saving Bank for this generous grant to expand our Computer Science programs. The funding will provide the materials and resources we need to embed additional 21st century learning opportunities in our program of studies to engage students in the exciting world of science, technology, engineering and math. We’re especially excited about the opportunity to introduce coding to younger students and promote their enthusiasm and skills in the area of computer programming,” said Gary W. Abbamont, Wissahickon Assistant Superintendent.

“We are excited to maintain the partnership with Wissahickon School District. We believe that today’s students need innovative and technological classrooms to excel in tomorrow’s fast-paced world,” said Roger Zacharia, President and CEO of Ambler Savings Bank. “We look forward to continuing to grow our relationship with Wissahickon School District while promoting Ambler Savings Bank’s commitment to public education.”

Ambler Savings Bank provided the grant through the Educational Improvement Tax Credit Program (EITC), a state program which allows participating businesses to support innovative educational improvement organizations like WEOF and receive a tax credit on their state taxes. The grant will be used to expand computer literacy programming with the purchase of new educational materials and expanded learning opportunities for Wissahickon students and staff. Some of these purchases will include the following:

- The purchase of robotic learning supplies and materials to enable our elementary students to engage in coding opportunities;
- The purchase of twenty-first century teaching and learning supplies and materials to enhance current curricular studies in the elementary program;
- The support of a Computer Programmer to participate in a residence program during Computer Science Education Week to deepen student learning and understanding of careers in computer science
- The creation of an after school club specifically for elementary age girls interested in learning about computers.

The expansion of computer literacy next school year will primary be focused at the elementary level as part of the district’s efforts to spark students’ interest in STEM at a young age and to encourage female students to pursue classes in these areas as they progress to middle school, high school and beyond. A portion of the funds will expand “computer programming” learning opportunities at the middle school level as well.