

BUNGER MIDDLE SCHOOL RECIEVES GRANT FROM JAMES PATTERSON AND SCHOLASTIC READING CLUB FOR SCHOOL LIBRARY

Evansdale, IA – December 16, 2015—Bunger Middle School received a grant today from bestselling author **James Patterson** to support its school library. In addition, **Scholastic Reading Club** will match each dollar of Patterson’s donation with “bonus points” that teachers can use to acquire books and other materials for their classrooms. Bunger was selected from 27,924 applications for funding grants.

As part of an ongoing effort to keep books and reading a number one priority in the United States, bestselling author James Patterson, together with Scholastic Reading Club made a commitment to help save school libraries nationwide. This year alone, Patterson personally donated 1.75 million to school libraries nationwide, with grants ranging from \$1,000 to \$10,000 allocated to each of the 467 selected schools.

“We are so excited and honored to receive this grant from James Patterson and Scholastic Reading Club,” says Kristen Hinders, Bunger’s Media Specialist. “Our plan is to use these funds to help update our nonfiction selection in the library, particularly in our STEM areas. Many of these titles are outdated, and library-bound nonfiction books can be expensive. With this grant, we’ll be able to provide new and relevant nonfiction to our students without sacrificing other library needs.”

“These grants are my humble acknowledgement of some of the terrific work taking place in libraries,” says Patterson. “Here’s to flourishing libraries and to a joyful holiday season!”

“It continues to be inspiring and motivating to work with James Patterson to support school libraries across the country,” says Judy Newman, President of Scholastic Reading Club. “Jim’s unwavering commitment to helping children lead better lives rich with books is transformative. Scholastic is thrilled to be working in such an effective partnership.”

In the first-ever partnership of its kind, Patterson joined forces with Scholastic Reading Club to administer funding applications to their network of 62,000 schools and 800,000 teachers. Applicants were asked to fill out an online application posing the question, “What would your school library do with \$1,000 to \$10,000?” The full list of grant recipients is available online at www.scholastic.com/pattersonpartnership.

Any United States school with students from pre-kindergarten to 12th grade was eligible for a grant. Patterson hopes that the high volume of requests will raise awareness for the problems facing school libraries today. To learn more about what’s happening with Scholastic Reading Club and Patterson’s grant, go to <http://mediaroom.scholastic.com/scholasticreadingclub> and follow #PattersonPledge on social media.