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Harrisburg Academy Teacher Receives \$500 Grant from James Patterson and Scholastic Book Clubs for Classroom Library

WORMLEYSBURG, PA – Harrisburg Academy congratulates Lindsay Bowman on winning a \$500 grant from bestselling author, James Patterson, to support her classroom library. In addition, Scholastic Book Clubs will match each dollar of Patterson’s donation with “bonus points” that Bowman can use to acquire books and other materials for her classroom. Bowman was selected amongst a record of 82,622 applications for funding grants. To learn more about the program and see the full list of grant recipients, visit: www.scholastic.com/pattersonpartnership.

James Patterson and Scholastic Book Clubs announced in April 2017 that Patterson would donate \$1.75 million to classrooms libraries nationwide in the third installment of his **Patterson Pledge** campaign. With this third round of donations, Patterson and Scholastic aimed to give even more children in the United States access to books. Since the grant program’s launch in 2015, Patterson has donated \$5.25 million to school libraries nationwide, with all funds being personally donated by Patterson.

“I applied for the grant to support the ‘History Reading Project’ I assign to my 6th and 7th grade students,” said Bowman. “They must read a historical fiction or non-fiction book that occurs during the time period we study in class and complete a writing assignment and poster. It has been a great way to keep them reading, and they get excited to share information about their books’ topics when we come to that point in our class discussions. I’ll use the award from Scholastic Book Clubs and #PattersonPledge to expand the titles available in our library.”

“We saw a huge increase in the number of applications to this year’s campaign,” Patterson said. “The incredible response demonstrated just how resourceful teachers are, and how vital to they are to student development. I’m happy to be able to acknowledge their contributions.”

“Classroom libraries are unique in their ability to provide kids direct access to high-quality books every day,” said Judy Newman, president of Scholastic Book Clubs, a division of Scholastic, the global children’s publishing, education, and media company. “We were blown away by the more than 82,000 entries we received from teachers for this year’s Patterson Pledge grant, underscoring the significance of James Patterson’s personal commitment to helping kids discover a love of reading. Jim’s passion and generosity in awarding these grants to classroom teachers are making a real, lasting impact, and fulfill our joint mission to foster a community of readers in the classroom, at home, and beyond.”

In the first-ever partnership of its kind, Patterson joined forces with Scholastic Book Clubs to administer funding questionnaires to their network of 62,000 schools and 800,000 teachers.

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Based on past winners, these grants have been used to purchase new books, add bookshelves, make improvements to catalog systems, and expand programming. This year, applicants were asked to share in 50 characters or fewer how they planned on using \$500 dollars and 500 “bonus points” to help build their classroom libraries. All teachers in grades pre-K through 12 in United States schools could apply for the grant.

To learn more, go to mediaroom.scholastic.com/scholasticbookclubs and follow #PattersonPledge on social media.

About Harrisburg Academy:

Established in 1784, Harrisburg Academy is the 17th oldest non-public school in the nation and Harrisburg’s only independent school. Our coed, diverse school community inspires students from age three through 12th grade by providing an academically challenging and globally minded liberal arts education focused on dynamic classroom experiences, strong student outcomes, and a commitment to character development. The Academy proudly stands as the first school in the greater Harrisburg area to offer the International Baccalaureate Diploma Program and merit scholarship.

For more information about Harrisburg Academy please visit our website or contact Miranda Connelly at 717-763-7811 or via email at connelly.m@harrisburgacademy.org.

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