



Classroom Innovation Grant Application (*formerly Venture Grants*)

Deadline - October 27, 2010

Overview

The information that you will include in the attached application form will provide the LPEF Grants Committee with the data needed to determine whether or not to fund your project. Applications may be from staff, students, parents or community members who partner with School District of La Crosse staff. Applications for other opportunities with the Foundation are available for download on our website at www.lpefonline.org.

Guidelines

- Grants must serve the students in the School District of La Crosse.
- Projects must be innovative, creative and new funding initiatives within the School District of La Crosse.
- The grant may be denied if another funding source might be more appropriate.
- Project funds must be spent by May of 2012.
- Interim and final reports will be required.
- Payments for services of La Crosse School District employees are prohibited.

Criteria

Applications will be reviewed on a competitive basis by the Grants Committee of the La Crosse Public Education Foundation. Priority is given for Classroom Innovation Grants that:

- meet multiple educational objectives
- align with district/school/curricular goals
- impact a variety of students and/or schools
- are collaborative
- are sustainable

Please see the Classroom Innovation Grant evaluation rubric for the grant proposal evaluation criteria. Although most applications are worthy of awarding, the committee has limited funding and must set priorities that help the foundation fulfill its mission.

Instructions

- € Complete the following grant application.
- € Save as a Word document. Name the document the same name as your grant proposal.
- € Print page 1 of the application. Sign and obtain other necessary signatures. Submit a paper copy of page 1 to the La Crosse Public Education Foundation at Hogan via inter-school mail or by mail to P.O. Box 1811, La Crosse, WI 54602-1811.
- € Submit the entire application electronically to lpef@centurytel.net.
- € Both the paper copy and electronic copy must be received no later than 5:00 p.m. on October 22, 2010.

If you have questions, please contact Geva Thole at 608-397-0176.



**La Crosse Public Education Foundation
Classroom Innovation Grant Application**

Section 1: Personal Information:

Name : Bridget Hill

School: Hintgen Elementary

Position/Title: Library Media Center Director

School Phone:608-789-7767

Section 2: Basic Project Information:

Project Title: Listening for Lifelong Learning

Total Request \$ 550.00

Signature of Applicant _____

Signature of Principal _____

Signature of IT Department Rep (if applicable) _____

The intention of the Foundation is to fund projects not covered by the regular school budget. Please document that regular avenues of funding have been exhausted. (i.e. requests to Principal and curriculum supervisors)

Section 3: Project Description:

By May, 2011, new audio book titles and new MP3 players will be purchased and will be in use by students, resulting in improved comprehension for readers who are below grade level. Audio books foster a love of stories in students who normally cannot read material that is age appropriate. This new format for audio is also a chance to collaborate with the Public Library. MP3 players are the needed equipment for downloading free audio books from the LPL website.

II.

Objectives of Project	List the corresponding district/school/curriculum goals (if applicable)	State how you will evaluate whether objectives are met.
Improved comprehension skills.	Reading strategies for comprehension can be taught with audio even better than with print, because a child's lack of decoding skill is not hindering comprehension.	Evaluation will be verbal, based on conversations with students about the stories they experience through listening.
Foster a love of story in students who read below grade level.	Promote lifelong learning.	Access can be tracked with circulation records, but lifelong learning is a difficult to assess.
Students will carry this technology out farther in the community by using the public library resources	Teach students to use both private resources and community resources.	Survey number of students who access the audio books available from the Public Library.

III.

Activities to Accomplish Objectives	Who Will Be Responsible for Implementation	Resources Needed (not financial)	Timeframe to Accomplish
Purchase equipment and MP3 CD's.	Bridget Hill		Two weeks after money is available.
Catalog items into the LMC collection	Bridget Hill		One week after material is received.
Advertise new titles and check them out.	Bridget Hill		Ongoing through the rest of the year.

Track circulation statistics.			
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IV. What is the lifespan of this project?

The audio books are downloaded on the MP3 players, so the audio books cannot be lost. They will remain in the Hintgen LMC collection for many years. The MP3 players are inexpensive and will probably be consumed within a few years. However, when students learn how inexpensive they are and how simple to use, my hope is that they will get a player of their own.

V. Approximately how many students will be affected by this project? Explain your number.

There are 163 students at Hintgen in grades 3-5 right now. They will have the opportunity to use the audio books immediately. However, over the life of the project, the audio books could be used by 160 students each year. If we continue to use the MP3 cd's for 10 years, hundreds of students will have had the opportunity to listen to them.

VI. Please state how you will collaborate with...

Other organizations in the community (if applicable) In a very short span of 10 years, audio books have changed formats from cassette to CD to Playaway to MP3. The Public Library now subscribes to Overdrive. If you have a library card, you can download MP3 audio books on to your own device. I want to teach the students how to use this new technology in the hope that they will utilize the resources of the wider world throughout their life. This project is just the springboard.

Other schools in the district (if applicable) All LaCrosse school libraries interlibrary loan material on a regular basis. If material is requested and it is available, it would be loaned.

Other departments/classrooms (if applicable)

VII. What will happen to the project at the conclusion of the grant? If it is to continue, how will it be sustained? This is a one time request for dollars to expand this project. It could be sustained through the regular LMC budgets and supplemented from the PTO.

VIII. How could the project be shared with other teachers and schools to benefit more students? This is the type of information that is regularly shared with other LMC directors. If someone gets a good project going, others also begin to do it.

Section 4: Budget Information:

Item	Supplier	Budgeted Amount
11 MP3 CD audiobooks	Follett Library Resources	450.00
5 MP3 players	Shopko	100.00

Total request: \$550.00

Other sources of funding for this project (if applicable): I already have purchased 9 audio books with regular LMC budget. I purchased 5 players last spring with funding from the Hintgen PTO. These items are checking out well and I need to expand the collection.

Total budget to accomplish project: \$550.00

Section 5: Summary:

How will this project bring visibility to LPEF in the community? Because of the potential to link with the Public Library, this project becomes wider than just our school.

Please provide a one paragraph summary of your project including an explanation of why we should fund your project.

It's a video world, and each year there seem to be more children who have difficulty with reading comprehension. We can teach them to decode letters and words, but few students ever love their basal reader. In order to get lifelong learners, we need to provide stories. With audio books, more students can be exposed to more stories. Even before they can actually read complex stories, they can learn to listen, to concentrate, to visualize, to draw inferences, and to sustain interest in something over hours and days. Though formats seem to be changing constantly, I think that they way of the future is to download material on to your own device. This grant will give me the materials I need, not to fulfill every title request of my patrons, but to teach them how to get what they want in the wider world.