

Learning Grant Application of the Eagle Foundation



The Learning Grants funding seeks proposals from District professional staff as well as advisors and/or coaches of school district sanctioned clubs for an innovative student project. The Eagle Foundation is committed to supporting educational and enrichment activities within the Cumberland Valley community.

Name:

Date:

School: **Elementary School**

Department: **Health and Physical Education**

School Phone:

E-mail:

Title of your project or activity: Peaceful Playgrounds

One sentence indicating the purpose of your project: **With the investment that the district is making in School Wide Positive Behavior; this program will work hand-in-hand to teach social skills through play using researched based materials, in-servicing teachers, and mediation methods that are developmentally appropriate for elementary age students.**

Number of students that will benefit from this project: **487 students/65 staff members**

Please provide the following information on a separate sheet (limit to one page):

1. Briefly describe your project or activity and how many students will benefit.
2. Justify your project or activity, including how it will enhance teaching and learning.
3. Provide a detailed and accurate budget including shipping costs. **(Please check your budget carefully. Grant recipients will be responsible for expenses incurred over the approved grant amount. The Foundation is exempt from SALES TAX. No sales tax should be included in your budget numbers.)**

Awarding of funds:

A total of \$25,000 has been allotted to the Learning Grants Fund to be awarded for projects taking place within the 2009-2010 academic year. If similar material or technology requests are made, faculty may be asked to share resources.

1. While grants may be up to \$1,000 for noteworthy projects, typical awards are less than \$500.
2. Funds will be allocated until depleted.
3. Funding decisions will be based on justification, using evaluation criteria listed below, and availability of funds.
4. Application deadlines: **November 2, 2009 for spring 2010 semester projects**
April 1, 2010 for fall 2010 semester projects

Applicants will be notified of the decisions made by the Program Evaluation Committee within six weeks following the deadlines.

Evaluation Criteria – More favorable consideration is likely for projects or activities that:

- are cost effective with regards to the number of students and faculty benefited.
- encourage the growth of 21st century skills (i.e. collaboration, critical thinking, problem solving) .
- promote creativity, innovations and interaction of faculty and students in the classroom.
- align with District's vision, goals and curriculum.
- have the potential to influence teaching and learning practices District-wide.

Final Report

Successful applicants will be required to submit a brief final report within three months of completion of the project. The report should include a final report of expenditures, a brief statement of what was ultimately accomplished, and an assessment of the project's success. Successful applicants may be asked to share project results with District administrators and faculty. Completed applications may be sent to: . Emailed submissions are permissible and should be sent to:

Building Principal or Supervisor's signature (provides acknowledgment that Administration is *aware* of the application)

The Peaceful Playgrounds Program

Briefly describe your project and how many students will benefit: The Peaceful Program provides a better organized playground that involves children in a variety of activities that develop motor skills, social skills, and cognitive skills. The Peaceful Program package includes blueprints, activity guides, stencils, awards/coupons, teaching video, workshop training materials, and mediation suggestions.

We have been waiting for years to have our (ELEMENTARY SCHOOL) playground resurfaced and painted. The district has it budgeted to do this summer. Our goal as educators is to organize the playground to meet the developmental needs of the students using them. The younger students have different needs than the older students and with the Peaceful Playgrounds program we can meet the needs of both groups.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL houses 487 students and approximately 60 staff. Each and every one of them will be positively affected by this program. The students will be taught specific games that correspond to the stencils on the playground and the staff will be in-serviced on the education benefit of the games. What's even more amazing is that these stencils will be on for years, and in the end, impacting thousands of children who walk through our building.

Justification of the program and how it will impact learning: The district has invested time and money in an initiative called "School Wide Positive Behavior Support," which is a behavior based program that teaches social expectations to the students of each individual school. If you ask any elementary teacher where the problem behaviors occur, one of their top locations would be the playground. Why? Now, more than ever, our kids do not have/do not make time for simple "play." Our kids lack the ability to play freely with each other. They are so used to being in an "organized sports" that free play creates a problem area that needs to be addressed. With the Peaceful Playgrounds program, common games will be taught, monitored and evaluated on a continuous basis. The children will be introduced to proper social behaviors necessary for play. In addition, conflict resolution will be addressed to teach students how to solve their problems in a fair and quick manner. Research has shown that through the use of Peaceful Playgrounds; playground injuries decreased, bullying was reduced, playground confrontations decreased, and there was an increase in game participation.

Every educator knows that behaviors of any kind impact learning. This being said, it is very important that our children have a positive playground experience each and every day. The playground should be a place where learning and growing work hand-in-hand. No teacher wants to spend time after recess dealing with a behavior issue that then impacts the classroom learning. With the Peaceful Playgrounds program those situations would decrease and learning, on the other hand, would increase.

Budget:

Necessary Items:	Peaceful Playgrounds Program Package:	\$3999.00
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