



March 1, 2020

Dear Worthington Staff Member,

The Worthington Educational Foundation (WEF) is a non-profit organization that partners with the Worthington School District by providing grants that benefit our schools and students. Applications may be submitted by any staff member of Worthington Schools. Successful grant projects will add value to students but aren't in conflict with the current curriculum. Attached are examples of successful grant applications.

The primary goal of the WEF is to fund initiatives that support and enhance, but do not duplicate the educational programs of the Worthington School District. There is no specific monetary limit on the size of award. Funds may be requested for projects that provide direct benefit to students and for materials and equipment not routinely supplied by the district or building. The WEF will not fund requests for food, transportation, or other consumables, or for performance contracts for district staff. Requests for flexible seating, fidget equipment, iPads or Smart Boards will not be funded.

Applications are due Friday, April 3, by submission to [wefgrants@gmail.com](mailto:wefgrants@gmail.com). Printed applications will NOT be accepted. Please note that a review and signature is required by your Building Principal and District Administrator (Kim Brown, Director of Special Education, Neil Gupta, Director of Secondary Education, or Patrick Callaghan, Director of Elementary Education). All requests for review and support by the District Administrator should be sent to the appropriate person by Friday, March 27. All applicants will be informed of the Board's funding decision by April 22. Successful applicants will receive checks at the school board meeting scheduled for April 27. Funds will be deposited in your school's account, and all purchases must be made through your Purchase Order process.

The WEF Board may offer to fund only specific parts your proposal. If your project has another partner for funding, such as a PTA or another grant source, be sure to indicate this in your Budget Narrative. Proposals for basic classroom equipment will only be funded if you can make a strong case that the equipment is not typically found in Worthington classrooms or is essential to implementing district curriculum in an innovative way that is new to the district.

Questions can be directed to Bethany Moore, Grant Allocations Committee Chair, at [wefgrants@gmail.com](mailto:wefgrants@gmail.com). Again, the goal of the Board of the WEF is to fund innovative projects that are true evolutionary change in the educational system and enrich the students' and families' lives in Worthington.

Sincerely,

Bethany Moore  
Chair, WEF Grants Allocation Committee

AND

Pat Kelso  
Chair, Board of Trustees

*Mission: Partnering with the Worthington School District to help district staff experiment with emerging trends, conduct action research, and provide experiential learning for students, parents and/or the community.*



## Recent Examples of Successful Grant Applications

### **Transdisciplinary Design Studio (TDS), Phoenix Middle School**

Inspired by Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics (STEAM) and Problem Based Learning (PBL), the TDS is a space and time where all seventh grade students are immersed in learning through creative thinking and problem solving. Four studios will focus on a complex problem that challenges students in fundamental skills (reading, writing, math) and 21<sup>st</sup> century skills (teamwork, problem solving, and others).

### **Computer Programming with Dash and Dot for Grades 3-6, Granby Elementary School**

Granby Elementary School has been offering an after-school robotics program for the last three years for sixth graders. This funding allowed for six-to-eight week exploration lessons for all students in Grade 3-6. The Wonder Workshop Learn to Code curriculum was followed. This will teach students in Grades 3-6 the basics of computer programming by learning how to code and become familiar with using Dash Robot and Blockly App for coding.

### **Parent Education, Guidance Counselors**

The Worthington School Counselors K-12 brought relevant and informative presentation to our parents and community in an effort to help them feel supported and connected to our schools. Information was presented to parents, teachers and school counselors districtwide via a series of three topics over eighteen months to include the importance of letting children struggle, relationship skills and helping children cope with stress. Two presentations on each of the three topics were presented, one for teachers and school counselors and the other for parents, for a total of six presentations.

### **Lets Get Moving!, Adaptive Physical Education Teacher**

Six different adapted bikes/tricycles and one racing wheelchair was purchased. Research shows that providing students with special needs with therapeutic bike riding leads to better balance, coordination, motor coordination and emotional well-being. All students deserve to have an opportunity for a sense of freedom and a chance to play with their peers.

### **Gardening for Picky Eaters and Sensory Processing, Sutter Park Preschool**

The goal is to provide gardening experiences throughout the school year with a combination of indoor and outdoor activities that promote healthy eating habits by picky eaters and provide sensory exploration. It is anticipated that students that participate will have improved communication skills, academics, self-regulation and social skills.

### **Hands and Voices of Hope, Worthington City Schools**

Inspired by the Columbus-based "Harmony Project", this grant was intended to create a vehicle to develop academic support, life skills and charter with underperforming students in grades 4-6 in all eleven elementary schools. Student participants took on the role of "character ambassadors" in their schools in order to develop leadership. The program culminated with a public celebration including parents, teachers and invited community members through music and

### **Class Library for Heritage Speakers of Spanish with Lesson Options, Worthingway Middle School**

Books were made available to heritage speakers of Spanish who have heard Spanish at home and learned English at school. The students may speak Spanish fluently but haven't had much instruction or practice with reading or writing in Spanish. By having these books and lessons available, students can stay at Worthingway to take their Spanish classes. An informational night for families including take home books was also planned.

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## Worthington Education Foundation

### Grant Application

**Due Date: Friday, April 3, 2020**

Teacher(s): \_\_\_\_\_

School Building: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Grant: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount of Request: \_\_\_\_\_

I. **Type of grant.** Please check which type of grant you are applying for:

\_\_\_\_\_ Path A: **Emerging trends:** These grants are available to teachers who want to implement research or evidence-based practice as a pilot. Teachers who receive these grants are expected to share their results with colleagues. Further, teachers should work with administration on a sustainability plan to continue the programming after the pilot period. WEF places a priority on funding programs that can be sustained and scaled.

\_\_\_\_\_ Path B: **Action research:** These grants are available to teachers who want to perform action research in their classrooms to test ideas and trends. Teachers who receive these grants are expected to write a final paper to share at conferences and throughout the district.

\_\_\_\_\_ Path C: **Experiential learning:** These grants fund short term events or programs that enrich the lives of students, their parents and the community. Teachers who receive these grants are expected to take photographs and write content to help publicize the event or program.

II. **Length of grant** (can be for more than one year)

Start Date \_\_\_\_\_ through End Date \_\_\_\_\_

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- III. **Description of project:** Provide a 250-300-word description of your project. Make sure to explain clearly what you plan to do, the primary target audience and secondary audiences.
- IV. **Quality of your idea:** Provide a 250-300-word justification that your plan is beneficial, best practice and/or research/evidence based.
- V. **Impact:** What impact do you expect this program to have? Describe metrics or evaluative tools you will use to determine success of project. What is the specific and measurable outcomes?
- VI. **Budget narrative/Timeline:** Explain how you will spend the funds and when. Provide a timeline and explanation of costs. If there are other funding sources that you are seeking or have already procured, please explain.
- VII. **Sustainability/follow up:** How are you planning to sustain your program (Path A only)? How will you use this program to enrich what you are doing in the classroom? (ex. If you have a speaker, how will you connect the topics to what students are learning in your classroom?)
- VIII. **Signatures:** Please read the following statement and sign that you have read and understand WEF's expectations if your program is funded.

I agree to use the funds for the program described in this application. I will provide a final written report or video to WEF and discuss the outcomes of this project at one of their board meetings if asked. The final report must include a summary of what happened and any related artifacts, receipts and evidence of how the budget was spent including copies of the Purchase Orders and invoices, and the specific impact. I will also seek opportunities to share my program and outcomes with colleagues through staff meetings, board meetings or conferences.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Applicant signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**District Support:** Please have your school principal and district administrator (Director of Special Education, Elementary or Secondary Education) read your grant and the following statement and sign that s/he understands and supports the grant program and requirements.

I have read this grant application and support the programming. If funded, the funds will be spent entirely on this project. In the event that some or all of the funds are not spent, they will be returned to WEF. If this application is a Path A application, I certify our intention to support and sustain the programming after the pilot period for at least two years.

\_\_\_\_\_  
School Principal's signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
District Administrator's Signature

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