

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

SUBJECT: FUNDED ACE GRANT PROGRAMS - 2012

The City of Greenbelt Advisory Committee on Education annually solicits grant proposals from the Greenbelt Schools.

The ACE Grants Program supports activities which enhance or enrich school-based activities. Eligible schools include the six ACE core schools: Greenbelt Elementary, Springhill Lake Elementary, Magnolia Elementary, Turning Point Academy, Greenbelt Middle and Eleanor Roosevelt High School. Proposals are welcome either from the school itself or from the school's parent-teacher organization.

On January 23, 2012, the Greenbelt City Council approved funding for 16 programs at 4 schools, for a total value of \$7190. The funded programs are:

#	School	Title	Funding
1	GES	Reading & Writing Non-Fiction Text Project	\$ 500.00
2	GES	Microscopes: Enriching Science and Exploratory Learning	\$ 500.00
3	GES	Lively Tales w/Chesapeake Children's Museum	\$ 250.00
4	GES	1XL Math	\$ 500.00
5	GES	Character Development through Drawing & Illustration	\$ 500.00
6	GES PTA	School Play	\$ 500.00
7	SHLES	Garden Club	\$ 500.00
8	SHLES	Cooking Class	\$ 500.00
9	SHLES	Exercise Instructors	\$ 500.00
10	GMS	Music Composition Camp	\$ 450.00
11	GMS	Robotics Team	\$ 290.00
12	GMS	Graphic Design Creative Suite Software	\$ 500.00
13	GMS	Field Trip to the National Museum of Natural History	\$ 500.00
14	GMS PTA	Day of Dance	\$ 200.00
15	GMS PTA	Greenbelt Middle School Novels	\$ 500.00
16	ERHS	Special Education Agenda Books, 2012 – 2013	\$ 500.00
		Total	\$7190.00

Funded Programs:

1 Reading and Writing Non-Fiction Text Project; Greenbelt Elementary School.

Funding: \$500.

Summary: Purchase 60 copies of the non-fiction book *Bugs and Bugsicles* for use by class levels Pre-K through 6th grade to initiate a transdisciplinary unit combining reading, writing, illustration, and science.

Strengths: The books will be used at all class levels and in all classrooms throughout the school, and will be available in future years. The book is written by a local author, who is able to provide the books at cost and will speak at the school to introduce her work to the students. The book has been cited as a model for teaching children to read and write. The unit will be taught during wintertime and so the topic of the book, which examines what different insects do to survive through the winter, can be matched to science observations the students can make.

2 Microscopes: Enriching Science and Exploratory Learning; GES.

Funding: \$500.

Summary: The purchase of four versatile, student-friendly microscopes.

Strengths: These microscopes will provide hands-on learning for 4th, 5th and 6th graders for many years to come.

3 Lively Tales w/ Chesapeake Children's Museum; GES.

Funding: \$250.

Summary: Greenbelt Elementary School partnered with the Chesapeake Museum to present its Lively Tales workshop for the pre-kindergarten students. The students are able to participate in interactive storytelling in their own classroom and they will get to use themselves as the actors/actresses. The students will also create their own puppets out of craft materials which will help to develop their concentration, vocabulary, social skills, fine motor skills, creative problem solving and multi-cultural appreciation. The grant would fund this workshop activity with a contribution to supplement the costs from the Chesapeake Museum. The entire cost is \$280.

Strengths: This is an excellent proposal. This workshop helps to support the learning and creativity of the pre-kindergarten students.

4 IXL Math: Greenbelt Elementary School.

Funding: \$500.

Summary: IXL Math is a website aligned to the state education standards and covers nearly all math skills taught during the school year and even more. The website provides an extensive

reporting system that includes grade-level proficiency, overall class and individual student strengths, and also areas needing improvement. Answers to problems and questions may be reviewed by teachers and the program encourages student goal setting.

Strengths: A high level of engagement is expected in this program based on results of a similar program implemented last year at GES. Students in grade 3 (75 students) and grade 5 (85 students) will be using the website program. The program will be used from February, 2012, until the end of the school year in June, 2013. Additional funding will be provided by the school budget.

5 Character Development Through Drawing and Illustration; GES.

Funding: \$500.

Summary: Local artist Mr. George Kochell (known as Mr. Geo) will work with fifth and sixth grade students to teach them to draw characters from their reading/writing assignments. Mr. Kochell charges \$125 per session and will teach 4 sessions, 2 per grade, for a total cost of \$500.

Strengths: All students in 5th and 6th grades will work with Mr. Kochell. Fifth graders will draw heroes from their tall tales stories. Sixth graders will draw characters from their creative writing assignments. The artistic element adds a new dimension to the Reading, English, and Language Arts curriculum; encourages students to think about the attributes of the character they are drawing; and provides a creative outlet that is also in line with the county curriculum. Mr. Kochell has worked with students in the past and the response from students and teachers has been very positive.

6 School Play; Greenbelt Elementary School PTA.

Funding: \$500.

Summary: Funding will be used for supplies to create backdrops for a play, which will help provide hands-on and kinesthetic learning for the students. These opportunities supplement the in-class instruction by infusing arts and movement into the total student experience and also supplement the reduced level of funding by the county school system.

Strengths: Participation in the play will be open to all students. Individual students from the upper grades will audition for speaking parts and entire class groups will sing a song during the play. Additional money needed for the production will be provided by the PTA.

7 Garden Club: Springhill Lake Elementary School.

Funding: \$500.

Summary: Students from across the school (5-12 years old) will learn hands-on knowledge on how to grow fruits and vegetables in the school courtyard and classrooms. They will receive materials to create their own garden. The grant will help fund seeds, raised garden beds, aero beds (classroom projects), soil and delivery, shovels, rain barrel materials and watering cans. During the summer months, they will work alongside Greenbelt Recreation Department who

will help maintain and harvest the summer crops. The project will be year round and will need daily maintenance from students, staff, and community partners.

Strengths: Students will learn gardening and use in their personal life when needed. This is knowledge that is not available in regular school classes.

**8 Cooking Class: Springhill Lake Elementary School.
Funding: \$500.**

Summary: Springhill Lake Elementary school has an annual cooking class that meets for 6 weeks every spring that is highlight of every third-fifth graders (8-12 year old) who receive training. Due to budget constraints, they have to limit only 24 students with a priority to those who are under risk health category (obese, severely underweight, homeless, etc.). Students will learn preparing food, wash, cut, measure, bake, sauté, serve and even create their own recipe.

Strengths: This learning will benefit the students in using the skills in their personal life and they can help their parents too.

**9 Exercise Instructors. Springhill Lake Elementary School.
Funding: \$500.**

Summary: Students, school staff and the students' families will participate in four after-school exercise clinics in the school gymnasium. The clinics will be conducted by a mobile fitness company, Legendary Strength and Conditioning, at the cost of \$125 each.

Strengths: Promotes fitness and regular exercise as part of the school's overall effort to promote healthy lifestyle.

**10 Music Composition Camp; Greenbelt Middle School.
Funding: \$450.**

Summary: The Greenbelt Middle School Music Department would like to host a composition camp for all students and teachers during spring break in 2012. Participants will learn about the basics of music theory as well as computer based composition. The end project will be a recording of the compositions by the participants. The grant would fund purchasing the necessary software/site license and compensate the facilitator who is a certified music teacher in Maryland. The entire cost is \$450.

Strengths: The composition camp will help to foster musical creativity and is an extension of the creation station project which was also funded through ACE grants. This allowed students to create music with computers.

**11 Robotics Team; Greenbelt Middle School.
Funding: \$290.**

Summary: Greenbelt Middle School is in its first year implementing a Robotics Team. The purpose of the team is to introduce students to basic engineering concepts associated with

designing, building and programming robots. The members of the Robotics Team will be introduced to role models in the engineering world as well as learn about educational opportunities in technology and areas of engineering. The grant would fund a field set up kit and team registration fee for the First Lego League. The school has already purchased the Lego NXT education kits the students will be using.

Strengths: The Robotics Team will support the STEM Club which is already in place and also works with technology. The program will serve as a bridge to the Robotics Team at Eleanor Roosevelt High School.

12 Graphic Design Creative Suite Software: Greenbelt Middle School.

Funding: \$500.

Summary: Students will study composition and the principles of design, observe and discuss successful design and analyze the principles that underlie them. Students will apply these lessons in original, hands-on, projects with an emphasis on creative application of design elements and visual communication. Students will employ both analog media (drawing with pencil and paper etc.) and digital media - using latest computer tools (graphic hardware and software for drawing, painting, layout, topography, scanning, and photography). At the end of the course, students will create digital portfolios. Each student will burn CDs and maintain a jewel case storing their digital portfolios.

Strengths: This learning will give students a basic design foundation that can be applied to any visual presentation they might encounter in or outside school.

13 Field Trip to the National Museum of Natural History, Greenbelt Middle School.

Funding: \$500.

Summary: Thirty five (35) (of the total 60) students in the GMS English Language Learners (ELL) program will take a field trip to the National Museum of Natural History and the Smithsonian IMAX Theater. The requested \$500 funding will cover the rental bus transportation to the museum and \$4 of each child's \$7 IMAX ticket cost. The remaining \$3 of the IMAX attendance cost per child will be covered by each child.

Strengths: The experience of attending the Museum of Natural History is valuable for all children, but especially so for children who are recent immigrants to the US and are learning English and adjusting to the US culture. The project is carefully planned and budgeted.

14 Day of Dance: Greenbelt Middle School PTA.

Funding: \$200.

Summary: Professional dance instructors will lead workshops throughout the day, the school's Salsa Club will perform and teach participants some dances, and parent volunteers will also lead some dancing. The event will be free and open to the public.

Strengths: Participation in the event will be open to all students and staff as well as the general public. The aim of the event is to build community within the school and help the general public have more ownership of their middle school. The expense for the event is also reasonable.

15 Greenbelt Middle School Novels; Greenbelt Middle School PTA.

Funding: \$500.

Summary: Purchase 60 copies of the novel, *A Green Glass Sea*, for use by 7th and 8th grade honors English classes. The book is available from multiple sources, and prices are given for a total of 60 books ranging from \$432 to \$472 plus shipping and handling.

Strengths: The book is set in Los Alamos during World War II, and will enhance the current curriculum which includes *The Diary of Anne Frank* in the study of World War II. Students will use sticky notes to mark important passages in the book, thus advancing their critical reading and thinking skills. The books will be used in subsequent years as well as this year.

16 Special Education Agenda Books; ERHS.

Funding: \$500.

Summary: Provide agenda books to 201 Special Education students at Eleanor Roosevelt High School for the 2012 – 2013 academic year (ordered in the spring of 2012). The remaining \$207.52 of the expense will be covered by the Special Education Department. The agenda books will assist the Special Education students with development of self-management and organization skills.

Strengths: Affects the entire estimated Special Education population at the school. Cost-effective and well planned.