

SUBJECT: FUNDED ACE GRANT PROGRAMS - 2014

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 February 10, 2014, the Greenbelt City Council approved funding for 17 programs at 4 schools, for a total value of \$8,046.71. The funded programs are:

#	School	Title	Funding
1	ERHS	Replacement Cases	\$ 500.00
2	GES	Think Fun Games	\$ 500.00
3	GES	Books! The Magic is Real	\$ 500.00
4	GES	Instrumental Music Equipment	\$ 474.00
5	MES	Special Education Intervention Program	\$ 454.95
6	MES	Technology Integration	\$ 492.98
7	ERHS	Idea Paint	\$ 435.00
8	ERHS	Special Education Intensive Students	\$ 369.00
9	SHLES	Butterfly Wonder SHLES	\$ 480.00
10	GES	Building Engineering Design Club	\$ 500.00
11	MES	Headphones for Computer Lab and Media Center	\$ 499.38
12	MES	Magnolia's Outdoor Hands-On Classroom	\$ 500.00
13	SHLES	Enhancing Performance Experience for Chorus	\$ 500.00
14	SHLES	Garden Project Continued	\$ 500.00
15	SHLES	Science Experiments 2014-2015	\$ 500.00
16	GES	Talented and Gifted Resources	\$ 341.40
17	SHLES	We Raise Readers	\$ 500.00
		Total	\$ 8,046.71

Proposals:

1) Replacement Cases. ERHS. Recommended funding: \$500 (full funding.)

Summary: Excessive dampness in the school band room has resulted in mold growth in a number of instrument cases. The school has addressed the humidity problem and the band director has cleaned as many cases as possible. However, some cases cannot be properly cleaned so the proposal is to replace four double horn cases. In addition to funds received from the grant, the school will conduct fundraisers to cover additional costs.

Strengths: The proposal will help address a significant issue that is causing avoidable degradation of band instruments and could pose a health concern to students exposed to the mold in the instrument cases.

Weaknesses: None.

2) Think Fun Games. GES. Recommended funding: \$500 (full funding.)

Summary: Think Fun Games is a program designed to provide students in the third grade TAG program an opportunity to enhance their skills in mathematical reasoning and problem-solving. The Games can be used by individual students or by a group of students in an Activity Center. The program supports the Common Core State Standards in mathematics.

Strengths: The proposed effort augments the mathematics curriculum by offering new approaches and challenges in this subject. Although targeted primarily for the third grade TAG students at GES, it could be used by other students at the school as well. It is designed to invite students to interact with their peers on solving mathematical problems, which can help lay the groundwork for more substantive interaction and collaboration as the children advance to higher grades.

Weaknesses: None.

3) Books! The Magic is Real. GES. Recommended funding: \$500 (full funding.)

Summary: The purpose of this proposal is to fund a performance that combines magic tricks with children's stories ranging from Dr. Seuss to Harry Potter. Two assemblies would be given so that all the students in the school could attend.

Strengths: The goal of the proposal is to present stories and reading in a different and exciting way. The stories are first described and then magic tricks are performed to enhance the stories. The endings of the stories are left untold, inviting the students to read the endings for themselves. The PTA would augment the funds from the ACE grant to cover the full cost of two performances.

Weaknesses: None.

4) Butterfly Wonder. SHLES, GES, MES. Recommended funding: \$480 (full funding for SHLES only).

Summary: This program was proposed for three schools, Greenbelt Elementary, Springhill Lake Elementary, and Magnolia Elementary. A puppet show demonstrating the transformation of a caterpillar into a butterfly will be given to each first-grade class in the school. The puppet show is designed to augment the science and math curriculum at a time when the classes will be studying the life cycles and how animals grow and change.

Strengths: ACE has previously funded a puppet show produced by the Beech Tree Puppets company and it was well-received. The show is designed to augment the science and math curriculum in a way that combines story-telling, artistry, and imagination. By presenting the show in each classroom, the children have closer interaction with the performer than they do in an assembly. The proposal included follow-up activity after the performance.

Weaknesses: The same program is proposed to be performed at three schools. ACE has a policy prohibiting splitting proposals to obtain more than the maximum \$500 grant for one effort. ACE did not view the proposals as separate even though they come from three different schools, since the proposals were nearly identical. ACE has chosen to recommend the program at SHLES but not at GES and MES. The selection of SHLES was based on providing a balanced grants program across all the schools that submitted proposals.

5) Instrumental Music Equipment. GES. Recommended funding: \$494.00 (full funding.)

Summary: GES instrumental/band program needs a rolling storage rack to store school owned basses and to ensure long-term maintenance. Currently, students who use these instruments have difficulty getting the basses from the closet safely due to their size.

Strengths: The music program will give students exposure to all the instruments in the orchestra and the experience of playing in a full string orchestra will prepare them for performing with secondary school ensembles. Providing a rack will allow students to properly care for the instruments and retrieve them more easily for practices and performance.

Weaknesses: None.

6) Special Education Intervention Program. MES. Recommended funding: \$454.95 (full funding.)

Summary: Intervention kit called Verbalizing and Visualizing that has monitoring tools that allow teachers to collect data on student's progress. Allow students to have skills reinforcement from lesson being taught in class within a small group setting. Students with specific learning disabilities will benefit from this program.

Strengths: Verbalizing and Visualizing will help struggling readers develop the sensory – cognitive function of concept imagery, comprehension and expression of oral and written language as well as the development of critical thinking skills.

Weaknesses: None

7) Technology Integration. MES. Recommended Funding: \$492.98 (full funding.)

Summary: English Speakers of other Languages (ESOL) is for students who are English language learners and teaches them how to read, write, speak and listen to English properly. Integrating technology is becoming a part of education. To help incorporate technology for students the following learning tools are needed: Acquire a year license for Raz-Kids which is a reading program website. The website allows students to read independently and answer comprehension questions that are scored. The program is most effective when it includes a printer and camera that the teacher and students use in concert with the lessons on the website.

Strengths: All of the ESOL in grades K-6 will benefit from this program. Cost effective and an excellent way to engage students with specified needs.

Weaknesses: None

8) Idea Paint: ERHS. Recommended Funding: \$435 (full funding.)

Summary: This new method of teaching makes any classroom more learner friendly by converting any surface into a dry erase canvas, giving teachers and students space needed to collaborate, connect and accelerate learning. Idea Paint can make mathematics more accessible to all types of learners--visual, auditory, and kinesthetic.

Strengths: Eliminates use of old blackboards and chalk, and it turns desks and tables into interactive surfaces without using paper. IdeaPaint can be purchased for a price fitting into the grants budget. This could impact many math students at ERHS over time since the project can be used continually throughout the year and is expected to be functional at least seven years.

Weaknesses: Reviews of this product on the Internet indicated that some purchasers had difficulty applying the paint. Reviewers who did not achieve high quality application were not able to use the product as intended and were not satisfied. ACE recommends a very careful reading of the reviews and the product instructions before application.

9) Intensive Special Education Students Grant: ERHS. Recommended Funding: \$369 (full funding.)

Summary: This grant will be used to purchase BrainPop, an online resource with many activities such as movies, quizzes, games, and readings for a wide range of courses. Students in intensive special

education courses will benefit from such activities as interactive cartoons and interactive questions when the students are struggling with written responses.

Strengths: The proposal enhances and enriches school-based activities and is likely to succeed. The budget is low and easily funded. The project should also provide much positive benefit for the selected students and the proposal meets the required format.

Weaknesses: The number of students impacted is limited.

10) Building Engineering Design Club. GES. Recommended Funding: \$ 500 (full funding.)

Summary: The grant application is for \$500 for the purchase of 18 sets of Kinex® model building sets for Engineering Design Club at the Greenbelt Elementary School. The total of 573 students is projected to benefit.

Strengths: The building of model sets is a well-recognized approach to educational enrichment. The funding for such enrichment is not usually part of the school budget. Kinex® is one of the established and well-reputed manufacturers of model kits. Additionally, Kinex Corporation offers a fully implemented building program, relying on the kits proposed for purchase. The proposal is clear; the budget is fully defined. The total of 573 students should be able to benefit.

Weaknesses: There was some concern that the model sets might not remain intact and undamaged long enough for hundreds of students to make use of them.

11) Headphones for Computer Lab and Media Center for MES. Recommended funding: \$499.38 (full funding.)

Summary: This grant would provide 42 headphones with microphones for use in the Computer Lab and Media Center

Strengths: By reducing distractions, students will be able to use the computers in a group setting with greater success. Foreign language lessons would be possible, as well as dictation to accompany projects. The entire school would benefit.

Weaknesses: None.

12) Magnolia's Outdoor Hands-On Classroom. MES. Recommended funding: \$500 (full funding.)

Summary: This grant would enable students at MES to design, build, and plant an outdoor garden classroom to complement the existing Berry Garden and Floral Garden classrooms already in existence. The goal is to educate the children on fundamentals of raising, eating, and selling produce. Some of the food raised will be used in classes on healthy eating, some will be sent home to families, and some will be sold to the students to provide fresh vegetables to them.

Strengths: Raising vegetables and selling them would provide material for lessons in agriculture, math and science record-keeping, art, creative writing, business, and service learning for the entire school.

Weaknesses: None.

13) Enhancing Performance Experience for Chorus. SHLES. Recommended funding: \$500 (full funding.)

Summary: This grant will provide support for students at SHLES to allow them to put on a musical. Funds will be provided for costumes, props, scenery, etc. Performances will be given to the entire school, enriching the experience both for the students involved in the production as well as the audience. The grant would also provide funds to allow members of the SHLES chorus to attend the Prince George's County Music Day at Six Flags Amusement Park. Last year the students were unable to attend because only two students' families could afford the cost.

Strengths: Chorus provides performance skills for many students as well as musical experience for the students in the audience. This grant will expand the reach of the chorus program. The students will carry these skills and appreciation for music with them to GMS and ERHS.

Weaknesses: None.

14) Garden Project Continued. SHLES. Recommended funding: \$500 (full funding.)

Summary: This grant will provide materials to maintain the current school garden by providing funds for seeds, plants, and other garden materials. It augments the Growing Healthy Habits curriculum in use at the school

Strengths: The seeds, soil, fertilizer, plants, trees, etc purchased with this grant will enable the school to maintain its successful garden. This provides content for lessons throughout the entire school.

Weaknesses: None.

15) Science Experiments 2014-2015. SHLES. Recommended funding: \$500 (full funding.)

Summary: This grant will be used to purchase equipment for science experiments that vividly demonstrate the principles being taught in the science classroom.

Strengths: These materials will enhance science classrooms throughout the entire school by providing interesting experiments. SHLES has used previous funds provided by ACE to establish a stronger science laboratory capability. Additional funds will furnish the school with useful equipment that will help educate a significant number of students in the school.

Weaknesses: None.

16) Talented and Gifted Resources. GES. Recommended funding \$341.40 (full funding.)

Summary: Acquisition of resource and activity books to enhance the instructional materials for the Talented and Gifted program. The materials will be available to all students, and is intended to provide more resources to teachers for TAG in the regular classroom.

Strengths: Materials for TAG students in all grades 2-5. Offers independent work activities.

Weaknesses: None.

17) We raise readers: The addition of Award winning Latino and African American Literature to our Library. SHLES. Recommended funding \$500 (full funding.)

Summary: Acquisition of award-winning books by Latino and African-american authors for the school library.

Strengths: Over 98% of SHLES population is part of a recognized minority but the selection of books available at SHLES is limited in its offerings of titles by minority authors. This grant would help to address this deficiency by providing quality books by Latino and African-American authors.

Weaknesses: While it is stated that all funds will go toward purchase of books that have won either the Coretta Scott King or Pura Belpre award, the budget would have been improved by mentioning specific titles to be procured and showing actual costs of those books.