

WEST ALEGHENY FOUNDATION

2017 Grants for Teachers Program

The West Allegheny Foundation rewards the creation of exciting and innovative educational ideas through ***Grants for Teachers***.

Grants will be awarded to enable innovative programming to become a reality.

THE CONCEPT

The ***Grants for Teachers Program*** was created to meet two needs common to most public school districts. First is the need to bring new resources to the classroom, which is the focal point of education. Second is to engage the support of business and civic leaders, municipal government and community members who may not have children in the public school system.

The ***Grants for Teachers Program*** rewards teachers with an opportunity to put exciting and often long-held ideas into practice. Materials developed with the grants could become part of the school's regular program. The excitement generated by a single grant has the potential to influence the learning climate of an entire school.

Grants for Teachers are effective because they put funds directly into the classroom where they can provide the most benefit.

SELECTION

All applications will be reviewed by educational or civic leaders who comprise the West Allegheny Foundation Grant Committee. Based on the availability of funds, the projects will be chosen on a competitive basis.

The Foundation Board of Directors will give final approval to all funded projects.

Interested teachers should carefully fill out the two-page application. The application may be submitted by an individual teacher or group of teachers. Each proposal will be reviewed with respect to the following criteria:

1. Is the project both innovative and curriculum-related?
2. Is proposed project clearly stated? Are the goals realistic and worthwhile?
3. Are the procedures to be followed clearly described? Are the methods, required materials, resource personnel, tentative schedule, and completion date specified?
4. Is the budget request reasonable and sufficiently detailed? **All proposals must include an itemized budget.**
5. Could this project be funded through the regular WASD budget?
6. Does the project have the potential to involve the community in some way?
7. Can this project become part of the regular curriculum? Does it have the potential to affect large numbers of pupils?

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

Interested applicants should complete the following process:

1. Develop a project for the classroom or building. Applicants may collaborate with other teachers, administrators, and/or parents. Involve the students; get their thoughts and ideas.
2. Calculate the cost of the project. Obtain prices for the materials and supplies you'll need.
3. Submit your application to: westallegHENYfoundation@gmail.com no later than **August 1st, 2017**.

IMPORTANT TO NOTE

Projects which will take several weeks to complete and have potential to come part of the regular curriculum have a better chance of being funded than "once and done" projects.

Applications from elementary, middle school, and high school teachers must have the signature of the building principal.

Applicants will be notified of the Foundation Board's decision by September 1st, 2017. Funded projects must be completed by May 1st, 2018.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q. Does this involve a lot of paperwork?

A. No. The application form is two pages. Applicants who receive a grant will be asked to submit a one page final evaluation report upon completion of their project.

Q. What kind of project can be proposed?

A. Almost anything that is innovative related to the curriculum and directly involves students. Projects will be judged according to the criteria listed in this brochure.

Q. Can a project include the purchase of equipment such as a camera?

A. Only if it is an integral part of your project. The purchase of electronic hardware not vital to the project will not be funded. Project funds can be used to purchase equipment or to provide field trip transportation, but not when they are ends in themselves.

Q. If awarded a grant, how soon can the project begin?

A. Almost immediately. Please contact Jonathan DeBor at 724-693-8691 or westallegHENYfoundation@gmail.com to receive your funds for your project.

Q. If a project involves a large number of students, will that improve my chances of receiving a grant?

A. Not necessarily. Having a large number of students involved in a project can be a plus, but this aspect is only one factor that will be considered.

Q. What happens to “leftover” funds upon the completion of the project?

A. Unused money, along with a financial report, must be returned to the Foundation at the conclusion of your project.

TWO IMPORTANT REMINDERS

- ❖ **The deadline for grant applications is August 1st, 2017**
- ❖ **Only one round of grants will be funded during the 2017-2018 school year.**

If you have questions or need further information, please contact Jonathan DeBor, Foundation President at 724-693-8691 or westallegheynyfoundation@gmail.com.