

Grant #3

ABOUT YOUR PROJECT

Please answer each of the following questions. If more space is needed, please attach extra pages. Please avoid using names of specific teachers and/or schools in your responses as all grants are blinded for review.

PROJECT/Item DESCRIPTION

1. Briefly describe the project, please include the project's goals and how they will be attained and measured.

The art department is requesting the purchase of 3 Skutt KilnLink kiln controller upgrades for use on district kilns.

KilnLink is a cloud based kiln monitoring system that allows you to check the current status, view firing history, and see the diagnostic data of your kiln from anywhere you have access to the internet. It will even send you text messages if an event occurs such as, your kiln has cooled to a temperature where it is safe to unload or your kiln has been started.

KilnLink is extremely helpful when you have multiple kilns to manage with multiple people firing them, as in our district's situation. Think of it as a kiln management system. From a single location you can check the health of every kiln in your district or building, monitor that kilns are being fired within school guidelines, and so much more.

On the full version of KilnLink you can monitor your kiln on your smartphone but you do so through a Mobile Web Application. It looks just like a regular App but is accessed by logging into your MySkutt Account through your web browser. Also, with the new touchscreen controllers, access to the full version of KilnLink just got easier and more affordable. Because it has built in WIFI, you no longer need additional hardware to connect your kiln to the cloud.

KilnLink connects your kiln to the internet and feeds information from each firing in real time to the KilnLink Database. Authorized users just log on to their account using a computer or smart phone connected to the internet. You can even set it up to send email or text alerts.

Innovation and Enhancement of Learning

2. Explain what makes this project innovative. How will assist you in meeting the needs of our students? Please be specific and provide data to support the need if possible.

It seems every day our schedules get tighter and tighter. As the art teacher, I am required to monitor the kilns. KilnLink gives teachers the freedom to know what is going on with their kiln without having to go into the kiln room. That means more time with the students and more freedom for the teacher. Often times it is not realistic to keep a teacher at school for the entire length of a kiln firing, however that is what we do. Often times, teachers come up on Saturdays to monitor a firing. KilnLink can keep Ceramics a viable option for schools. Art Coordinators/Department heads can even be authorized to view all the kilns in their district. This

means real time support for firing issues even though our schedules do not line up in each building.

Kiln Maintenance can be expensive and unpredictable. With KilnLink Skutt technicians can pull up all the data they need to diagnose your kiln and avoid multiple trips from your kiln repair contractor. Your contractor can also be authorized so they can evaluate each kiln for future maintenance and handle problems before they happen. The district kiln repairman can also log on with his user code and enter information regarding repairs, element resistance, etc., giving Skutt additional information at any time to help the teachers troubleshoot issues, free of charge, even when they can't reach us or their repairman. The same information can help forecast future repair expenses. They're able to look at all the firing profiles, compared to a normal profile, and get an idea of how fast the element life is declining and when it might be necessary to replace them.

AUDIENCE & SUSTAINABILITY

3 (a). Describe the student population targeted by this project. Might this project be repeated with new students in future years? Explain.

3 (b).How many students will be served?

Every student in the arts program will benefit. Since teachers and repair workers are able to have access to information on every kiln in the district, Skutt can simultaneously see the same info by accessing their account. Skutt can help diagnose problems remotely. You see, the Kiln Link doesn't just send the info to your PC. It sends it to Skutt as well.

Every year we have at least 2 kilns malfunction for various reasons. Due to Murphy's Law, it is always during the holiday rush to get presents fired or during art show season. We have an absolutely awesome kiln technician who is often able to stop by within 24 hrs or has been great about providing phone support as well. The down time comes into play when we have to wait for parts. Down time results in no projects going home, missing pieces in the shows, as well as storage issues. With KilnLink, our technician would be able to remotely see the part needed, order it, then make ONE trip to the school to install, saving the district multiple fees. We fire our kilns, all 3, once EVERY week. Some weeks during the busy season, we fire 2-3 times a week. Those kilns are the backbone of our program. Without them functioning to their peak, all we have is unfired dirt. It is imperative that we keep them working at their absolute best.

PROJECT EVALUATION

4. How will you evaluate the success of this project? What data, criteria, assessments, surveys, statistics or other measures will you use to assess its impact?

Success of the Skutt KilnLink on the district kilns will/can be measured annually by the amount saved on repair bills. It can also predict when parts will wear out or need to be replaced so items may be ordered ahead of a total kiln failure.

BUDGET

5. Please provide the following information for the items you intend to purchase for this project. If some of the items you will use to carry out this project are being paid by using funds from sources other than the GEO Grant (i.e., the school district, other grants, etc.) please include these items but enter zero (0) for the amount. This will let the reviewers know that the project is completely sustainable even if the Foundation is not financing the entire budget. Attach additional pages if necessary. Briefly describe any items that may be unfamiliar to the application reviewers.

Please consider your "ideal" request and also what you would be willing to accept if funds are limited. (For example, if 20 ipads for your classroom is ideal, but you would accept 5 or 10 and have students work in groups please indicate that below.)

	ITEM	UNIT PRICE	TOTAL
1	Skutt KilnLink controller upgrade	556.33	556.33
2	Skutt Kiln Link controller upgrade	556.33	556.33
3	Skutt Kiln Link controller upgrade	556.33	556.33
4	Installation/Labor	200.00	200.00
5	Shipping	120.00	120.00
6			
7	(3 controllers would be ideal, 2 would be great, 1 is acceptable)		
8			
9			
10			
11			
12			
13			
14			
15			
		BUDGET TOTAL:	1988.99

IMPORTANT NOTE: In order to ensure that projects including technology are priced properly, employees requesting technology or technology related items must submit prices for review to Adam Swinchock,

Director of Instructional Technology. **Technology proposals without his signature will not be considered by the committee.** Please also consider allowing for a 2-4% increase in pricing as pre-holiday prices typically increase in the new year when we are purchasing the items.

Required for proposals including technology items:

Signature: ELECTRONIC: Kristin DeGiovanni

Date: 1/4/22