Peters Township Education Foundation

The Peters Township Education Foundation is accepting applications from Peters Township School District staff members for projects, programs, or materials designed to promote the education of students within the District. If you have questions about the Foundation or about the grant process, please contact Matt Cheran at 724-941-2688 x4564 or at cheranm@pt-sd.org for more information.

GEO Grant applications will be reviewed by the Foundation's Board of Directors and will be awarded in January of each calendar year.

To submit your GEO Grant, please complete the application below before **January 7, 2021 at 4 p.m**. Applications should all be submitted to Mr. Cheran via interoffice mail to the Middle School.

NEW! *The Foundation will now accept applications throughout the school year. Awards will only be granted each January, but staff members may submit applications throughout the school year and summer break for consideration. We recognize that writing a quality grant is a time consuming process and we want to allow flexibility for the staff.*

Please submit your completed proposal in a sealed envelope with "GEO Grant" on the front. Review of proposals will be conducted by the Board of Directors using a blind review process.

PLEASE NOTE: Please note that technology requests must have additional sign-off from the Technology Department prior to submission. Please be sure to allow sufficient time to complete this step before the due date.

Staff Member Contact**:** **Kelly Zajicek**

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School: **Pleasant Valley Elementary**

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Phone number: _724-941-6260 X 1105 Email: _____zajicekk@pt-sd.org_____

Subject you teach or department (for non-faculty submissions):

_____ All Subjects_____

Grade Level/Building: ____1st Grade – Pleasant Valley _____
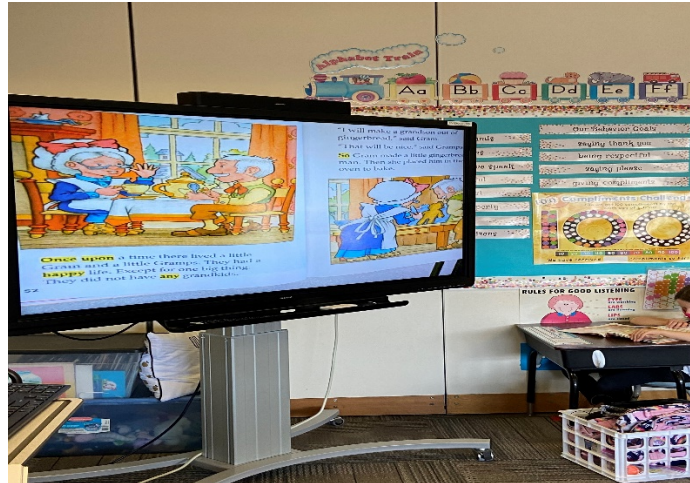
ABOUT YOUR PROJECT

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 DESCRIPTION

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

The goal of my project is to enhance instruction by using a document camera. Document cameras help keep students my students engaged and will help with reading comprehension, math, social sciences and all classroom activities. At the beginning of this school year, my older document camera stopped working. This is a real crisis for a primary teacher because young children cannot copy, track, focus or participate in most classroom activities without a visual example in front of them. It is very difficult for them to complete any paper activities without a model in front of them. I borrowed a document camera from a colleague, but I am now in need of one of my own for my classroom. Document cameras can capture images and display on smart boards for the entire class to see. This has been very useful in the past, but especially this year with students spread out social distancing in the classroom. Document cameras are a great teaching tool that many educators have to use now because we are moving away from traditional text book learning to a more "hands on" approach and many of the materials used are displayed on our smartboards with the camera. We can zoom in to show words, manipulatives and even a closer look at experiments that we do in the classroom. I can't imagine teaching primary students without them being able to "see" what we are learning without using the document camera. (See picture below)

Using the document camera for reading to highlight sight words in the story and use pictures to help comprehension

<u>Innovation and Enhancement of Learning</u>

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.

Using a document camera in an elementary classroom can make learning "come to life!" The students can display their work so that the entire class can see it! Students can show their pictures, special sharing items and complete paper work as the "teacher" using the document camera to demonstrate their knowledge of concepts. Teachers can be "spontaneous" with instruction by putting materials under the document camera, such as math manipulatives, in order for students to "see" the concepts and understand the lesson. I have even demonstrated how to use interactive websites to my students by putting their touch screen devices under the document camera to show them how to access that website. I use a document camera for almost every lesson during the day and using it helps meet the needs of ALL students by giving them a visual example to follow along with during instruction.

AUDIENCE & SUSTAINABILITY

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

The student population targeted is a first grade, heterogeneously grouped classroom of 6 and 7 year olds. This project will repeat every year and will benefit many students in the future.

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

20 + students each year will be served! When we are not in a pandemic, we even use the document camera for larger groups of students when we combine them for lessons or special curriculum units that we teach!

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 will be measured daily! Using a document camera, I will be able to see if my students can complete work with me or guide them to complete their work independently. It helps improve tracking, focusing and keeps students constantly engaged. Using the document camera helps improve student's handwriting by providing a correct visual model for them with proper spacing. It provides them with a visual tool for writing letters and numbers. Document

cameras can actually help improve comprehension skills for students by allowing them to see the illustrations in the stories to use with context clues, predictions and inferences. I have also seen success with my students learning keyboarding skills by using the document camera to display the keyboard for them and showing them how to type uppercase letters, symbols and words. (See image below) Students have been able to grasp concepts quickly by having a visual in front of them. I use the document to assess students in math, language arts and social sciences and can see their growth and mastery in each subject when given a visual to help complete their work. It is by far the most effective teaching tool for primary children besides our Aquaos boards and Chromebooks. I can't imagine teaching without one. I'm thankful that I was able to borrow one this year!

Thank you for considering my project! I appreciate you taking the time to read this application! Kelly Zajicek

***using the document camera to teach keyboarding and how to use the escape button with my first grade class!*

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	Aver M11-8M Document Camera #VISIM118M	$219.40	$219.40
2			
3			
4			
5			
6			
7			
8			
9			
10			
11			
12			
13			
14			
15			
		BUDGET TOTAL:	$219.40

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: _____ Date: _____