

Back To The Fifties Festival Grant Application
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1) Describe in detail the project for which you are requesting funding:

As an elementary school music teacher I see over 540 students every week from 23 different classes. Knowing my students well is a huge task, especially as I believe education should be student centered and relationship driven. I want to be the kind of music teacher who sees my students as individuals with their own personal strengths and weaknesses, a teacher who can differentiate my instruction based on their own individual needs. Of course this is difficult with so many kids, and it is made even more difficult by a learning disability that affects my memory. It is something I have struggled with for years- the conflict between wanting to remember everything possible about my students and only finding myself able to remember very little.

Over the years I have come up with different systems to help me know my students well. From studying the yearbook, to making detailed seating charts, to writing pages and pages of notes, I have found that the more I know about my kids the better teacher I'm able to be. This year I was able to borrow an iPad from our media center and download an app called iDOCEO. iDOCEO is an absolute game changer for me, and it has allowed me to combine all my systems for remembering and knowing my students into one place. Through this app I am able to make seating charts with individual pictures of my kids, track data, log behavior, record accommodations and special needs, and take time-stamped notes on classes as a whole or on individual students. This is huge for me, and it has made all the difference in the world. Now if I'm ever asked about the progress of one of my students I'm able to pull up their name on the app and have all their information pop up at a glance. This makes me more knowledgeable, more purposeful, and more confident as a teacher.

I am writing this BTTF grant requesting funding to purchase an iPad of my own. The iPad I am currently using is quite old and slow, and it is needed elsewhere in the building. With a newer iPad, I could continue using iDOCEO for years to come as well as incorporate other music apps into my classroom. For example, I am hoping to start an after school music club for students with special needs and know of several apps that can make music available to students who couldn't play traditional instruments. I have also used iPad apps in the past for music performances and in my regular teaching lessons. I have even used apps to relate music to science by visualizing soundwaves and producing pitches of different frequencies. The possibilities are endless, I just need the technology to make them efficient and reliable.

Further, the best teachers seem never to stay at their computers behind their desks. Rather, they are always moving around the room. This keeps the kids engaged and the teachers connected. Using an iPad in conjunction with the Apple TV I already have would allow me to step away from my computer to run PowerPoints and music from anywhere in the room. I know it's a little thing, but it would make a big difference! I firmly believe that teachers who use technology to better connect with their students are better able to reach those kids.

2) How will this project benefit Boone County recipients or our community?

I am so thankful that Zionsville Community Schools values music education and has given me the opportunity to share my love of music with so many kids. Being a music teacher is the best job ever because I get to see every student pass through our school for each year they are here. Instead of seeing 25 kids for one year like a classroom teacher, I get to see 540 kids for five years (plus incoming students!), and that gives me an incredible platform to invest in these students during their foundational years. My goal in all of this is not to produce 540 professional musicians, but to inspire 540 kids to enjoy music and appreciate its beauty as they grow older.

My hope is that this will leave a long lasting legacy built on a strong culture for the arts in the Boone County community. Some kids will go on to participate in band, choir, or orchestra, and other kids will simply grow to love listening to music and turn up the volume when they hear a favorite song on the radio. Both responses are important and valuable, and I am and will continue to be thrilled to be a part of it. Having an iPad is simply a small tool to use towards reaching a much bigger goal. Technology only lasts so long, but the relationships that I gain by knowing my students well could make a bigger difference than I ever even realize.

3) Describe how this \$250 grant will be spent and provide a brief timeline of program implementation. Projects must be completed by May 1, 2019 with final report due no later than May 31, 2019. (A descriptive budget, itemized costs of resources to be purchased, product estimates, and/or exact web page links for the item(s) may be attached.)

A new 32 GB iPad from Apple costs \$329.00 (<https://www.apple.com/shop/buy-ipad/ipad-9-7/32gb-space-gray-wifi>). I would use this grant to cover the first \$250.00 and then see if my PTO would fund the difference. If not I would purchase a refurbished 32 GB iPad from Amazon for \$309.99 (https://www.amazon.com/Apple-Early-Wi-Fi-MR7F2LL-Refurbished/dp/B07G9QNT6P/ref=sr_1_19?s=pc&ie=UTF8&qid=1541013448&sr=1-19&keywords=refurbished+ipad) and cover the difference using my own personal funds. If awarded this grant I would make the purchase as soon as the funds become available and would begin implementing it in my classroom immediately. Thank you so much for considering this application!