



Ecolab Teacher Grants Narrative Form - Individual Application

Applications are peer reviewed – do not include details that identify staff or schools/programs

Project Title: Student Centered Technical Theater Education

Part One: Project Details

1. Describe your project. (1000 Characters max)

My student centered technical theatre education project will encourage and allow my students to create, design, and perform their own theatre productions. Theatre is a versatile art form that encourages students to work together as a team or ensemble. This grant will allow my students to collaborate with each other while telling culturally relevant stories for an audience of their peers and fellow community members. Theatre is not just about performing, as every actor needs a stage with a set, lights to set the mood or tone of the play, sound effects to fully bring us into the world of the story, and costumes and make-up to completely transform the performers into the characters they are portraying. Theatre is a rare art form that incorporates so many other non-performative arts categories. I understand that not all people are comfortable performing. My technical theatre project will allow more students to become involved in the creative process.

2. Describe what the money will purchase. (500 Characters max)

The grant money will purchase a user friendly lighting console and a needed stage light.

3. How will you specifically use those services/supplies? (1000 Characters max)

The technical tools and materials requested will allow my students to design and run their own theatre productions throughout the school year. Many other theatre education programs have adults leading the technical aspects of a production but I believe this to be counterintuitive to student learning and will teach my students how to lead their own shows. Students will be operating the sound board and lighting console during live performances. Students will be building and painting sets. Students will learn how to apply make-up to transform into a character. Students will learn how to assemble and create costumes.

Reminder: Rename and save your completed form, including your last name in the title, before attaching to the online application.

Part Two: Project Justification

1. Describe the need for this project. (500 Characters max)

My middle school theatre and improv students are an amazingly creative and culturally diverse group. The public school where I teach is in underserved community and my students do not get the same creative opportunities as other schools with more resources and funding. The Performing Arts are a key component in a well rounded education for all students regardless of socioeconomic status.

2. Describe why you chose the items/services listed above to fulfil this need. (500 Characters max)

I chose the items listed above because it will allow my students to receive an authentic hands on education in technical theater. The skills they will learn in the theater also translate to other real world trade jobs like a carpenter, electrician, sound engineer, fashion design and a cosmetologist.

Part Three: Relationship to Student Learning and SPPS Achieves

1. What classroom unit of study/lesson plan/[MN academic standard](#) does your project align with (e.g. aligns with calculus curriculum in preparation for AP STEM test)? (250 Characters max)

My project alligns with our Technical Theatre unit. and the following MN theatre arts standard; Anchor Standard: Generate and develop original artistic ideas, Benchmark: Propose and create a comprehensive design using all technical theater elements.

2. How does your project support the classroom curriculum listed above? (600 Characters max)

My project is student centered which means it inherently connects to Minnesota academic standard in theatre arts education listed above. My programs main focus is to help students generate and develop their own original artistic ideas. This grant will help me achieve this benchmark goal through the technical side of theatre education/production. When thinking about the "big picture" or long term goals, this hands on technical theatre project will allow my students to learn kinesthetically and build skill sets that can be used the rest of their lives professionally and creatively.

3. Which [SPPS strategic focus area or long-term student outcome](#) does the project align with? (300 Characters max)

My project alligns with the strategic focus area of Effective and Culturally Relevant Instruction. Objective 3: Increase our capacity to meet the instructional needs of each learner. T

4. How does your project support the focus area or long-term outcome listed above? (700 Characters max)

This technical theatre project will allow all students to have a true creative voice. We will study different cultures and tell stories, through performance and technical design, that represent and connect to the demographics of our class population.

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Part Four: Measuring Project Success

1. What will success look like? (300 Characters max)

Success will come in the form of meaningful participation and students achieving academic benchmark goals in theatre class. I predict that overall authentic student participation levels will rise from 60% to 90%.

2. How will you specifically measure that success after project implementation? What positive changes to you anticipate? (500 Characters max)

I will measure the success of the project through a variety of summative and formative artistic assessments. Students will be designing and creating their own original works. I will encourage students to bring their personal interests and interpretations to the creative work. This will increase their intrinsic motivation to learn and create. I anticipate that more students will become authentically involved in their theatre education. I will track this through surveys and group discussions.

Part Five: Additional

1. Will any groups or community organizations (nonprofits, foundations, etc.) work with SPPS for this project? (500 Characters max)

There will be different community theatre experts from local theatre organizations coming into our classes to help guide us in technical theatre design and construction techniques.

2. Is there anything else you would like to share about your request/students/school? (Demographics, achievement scores, why this project can't be funded otherwise, etc.) (500 Characters max)

My students come from a multicultural community that prides itself on having strong, supportive, working class families. Their children deserve equal opportunity to achieve creative success in their daily education. Data shows that when school budgets become tight that arts education programs are often the first to be cut or have resources reduced. The Echolab grant money will allow this project to happen regardless of budget cuts.