



**WACO ISD EDUCATION FOUNDATION
COVER SHEET – PART II
Application for Grant:
2025-2026 Funding Cycle**

Assigned Grant Proposal #: _____

Project Title: _____

Grade Level(s): _____ **# of Students DIRECTLY involved:** _____

Subject Area(s): _____

Amount Requested: \$ _____

Grant Focus Area(s): In order to be considered, Waco Education Foundation Innovation Grant proposals must fall under one or more of the E4 focus areas: early childhood development, enhanced programming for advanced students, extended education for staff, and emphasis on student performance. NOTE: In addition to meeting one of the E4 focus areas above, grant readers are especially interested in creative and innovative grant requests that target fine arts, STEM, literacy, or enrichment.

(check all that apply)

Early Childhood Development

Enhanced Programming for Advanced Students

Fine Arts

Literacy

Extended Education for Staff

Emphasis on Student Performance

STEM

Enrichment

Assigned Proposal #38

Project Title: Apple Products Suite for the Choir Classroom

Project Description:

The **Apple Products Suite for the Choir Classroom** will allow the choral program at G.W. Carver Middle School to expand the use of technology in the choral classroom through the purchase of an Apple suite of products that will enhance the ability to project choral scores, involve the students in score reading, make audio recordings, and utilize Apple proprietary software programs to create student compositions. The ability to project these programs onto the screen already in the classroom is enhanced with the Apple products in a way that is not possible with the current PC setup.

Rationale:

The choir classroom is a dynamic environment where students develop musical skills, teamwork and self-expression. Student engagement is a precursor to success - in the present and into the future. A significant part of a student's musical success is predicated on music literacy - its vocabulary, its symbols, and its processes. Traditional methods of vocal music instruction rely heavily on sheet music, live accompaniment, and verbal instruction. While those are exceedingly beneficial, they can limit opportunities for creative exploration and individualized learning. The **Apple Products Suite for the Choir Classroom** grant would foster music literacy in choral music education through director demonstration and student engagement with the various software products. The Apple products and corresponding proprietary applications and software for composition and score reading, in particular, help the students engage with the music creation process, facilitate their critical thinking skills, and help their knowledge retention. Research from the National Association for Music Education highlights increased student motivation with digital tools. By equipping the choir classroom with Apple products, we aim to bridge gaps in access, modernize instruction, and prepare students for a tech-driven world where music and digital skills often intersect.

Goals:

The primary goal of this project is to enhance the choir classroom experience through the strategic use of Apple products. Specific objectives include:

- 1. Improve Music Literacy** - Utilizing applications such as ForScore, SymphonyPro, Garage Band, NextPage, and others will help students learn to read, analyze, compose, and practice music collaboratively and independently.
- 2. Enhance Performance Skills** - The Apple products have superior performance capabilities in enabling students to record and review their singing using high-quality

audio tools found on the iPad and MacBook, which fosters self-assessment and improvement.

- 3. Increase Engagement** - The Apple Products Suite, including an AppleTV for mirroring, helps integrate learning experiences (e.g., composing original pieces, harmonizing digitally, projecting scores, etc.) to increase students' connection with choral music.
- 4. Develop Digital Competence** - While many students possess technological devices of their own, there are many students who do not, especially in our diverse, Title 1 school. By experiencing the learning provided with the Apple products, students will be better equipped with skills in music technology that align with college and career readiness standards in the arts.
- 5. Promote Equity** - Utilizing Apple products ensures that all students, regardless of socioeconomic background, have access to cutting-edge tools for musical growth.

Plan of Operation

The implementation of the Apple products in the choir classroom will occur over the summer and into the Fall 2025 semester, depending on product availability, shipping upon receipt of the grant funds, and ordering through the technology department. Purchasing the equipment is the first step. Once they arrive, the choir director will need to coordinate with the technology department to ensure the necessary applications and software are available and installed. Then, the director and technology department can implement the hardware installation. Once those have been installed, the director will be able to plan and enhance instruction within the classroom, including recording students for competitions, projecting scores to enhance score reading, and utilizing the apps for collaborative composing projects. Maintaining the equipment and software would be accomplished through collaboration with Waco ISD's technology experts.

Communication and Dissemination

The choir director will invite the Waco ISD Education Foundation, Instructional Specialists, the Fine Arts director, administration, and the communications department to visit the classroom to witness the director and students utilizing the technology. This provides all with the opportunity to garner the benefits of the technology on the learning environment. Any media recorded may be shared on the district social media outlets to promote the district's commitment to technological excellence in the arts.

Evaluation

In order to assess the effectiveness of the Apple product implementation in enhancing student learning, the director will use a mixed-method evaluation approach. First, the students will take a baseline music literacy test (e.g., sight-reading accuracy, terminology, score reading,

etc.). This will be followed by a test at the end of the school year to measure improvement, tracked via SmartMusic, Sight Reading Factory, and other evaluation measures. Additionally, student performance will be measured comparing audio recordings from the start of the year and the end of the school year. The recordings will be evaluated by a choir director and an external music educator based on pitch, tone, and expression, using a standard rubric aligned with UIL music standards. Finally, the director and the students will have an opportunity to reflect on the impact of the technology, including engagement and ease of use.

Long Term Implications

The integration of Apple products into the choir classroom promises lasting benefits beyond the grant period. By establishing a tech-enhanced learning environment, the program will see sustained innovation by creating a framework for future funding requests to expand devices across the music department and other arts programs. Additionally, the students will build transferable skills in digital music technology that will enhance their prospects in higher education (e.g., music technology programs) and careers (e.g., audio engineering). Finally, the program will be able to strengthen ties with families and local arts organizations through shared digital projects such as student compositions and recordings.

Key Personnel

The choir director will lead the implementation of the technology on campus, with the support of the technology department and the Fine Arts director. The students will be able to utilize the equipment for recordings, under supervision, or via their own devices with the requisite software to share with the director, administrators, and others.

Budget and Budget Narrative/Justification

The budget includes a request for one AppleTV, one 13-inch iPad Pro, one Mac Studio, one Apple Display, and one 14-inch MacBook Pro. This equipment will enhance student learning through score projection, enhanced recording abilities, music literacy and sight-reading, and student compositions. We are asking the foundation to fund \$6533.00, which is currently \$59.39 per student. The budget document includes the details.

Waco Education Foundation

Grant Budget Form

Assigned Proposal #	38
Project Title:	Apple Product Suite for the Choral Classroom
Number of Students Served by Grant:	110

Qty	Budget Item	Verify Vendor (Y or N)	\$ Requested from the WISD Foundation	Other Secured Source	\$ from Other Source (if applicable)	Total Amount
Consumable Supplies						
						\$ -
						\$ -
						\$ -
						\$ -
						\$ -
						\$ -
total Consumable Supplies			\$ -		\$ -	\$ -
Technology						
1	Apple TV 4K Wi-Fi with 64GB storage		\$ 129.00			\$ 129.00
1	Mac Studio: Apple M2 Max Chip with 12-core CPU, 30-core GPU, 512GB SSD		\$ 1,799.00			\$ 1,799.00
1	Apple Studio Display - Standard Glass - Tilt Adjustable Stand		\$ 1,499.00			\$ 1,499.00
1	14-inch MacBook Pro: Apple M4 chip with 10-core CPU and 10-core GPU, 16GB, 512GB SSD - Space Black		\$ 1,499.00			\$ 1,499.00

1	13-inch iPad Pro Wifi 256GB with standard glass	\$ 1,199.00			\$ 1,199.00
1	AppleCare	\$ 408.00			\$ 408.00
	total Technology	\$ 6,533.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 6,533.00
Long-Term Supplies / Equipment (items that will last beyond the grant year)					
					\$ -
					\$ -
					\$ -
					\$ -
					\$ -
					\$ -
	total Long-Term Supplies	\$ -		\$ -	\$ -
Contracted Services					
					\$ -
					\$ -
	total Contracted Services	\$ -		\$ -	\$ -
Personnel					
					\$ -
					\$ -
	total Personnel	\$ -		\$ -	\$ -
Travel / Other					
					\$ -
					\$ -
					\$ -
					\$ -
	total Other	\$ -		\$ -	\$ -
Totals		Total Requested from the WISD Foundation	Foundation Cost Per Student	Total from Other Sources	Total Cost of Project

	\$ 6,533.00	59.39090909	\$ -	\$ 6,533.00
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