



**WACO ISD EDUCATION FOUNDATION
COVER SHEET – PART II
Application for Grant:
2026-2027 Funding Cycle**

Assigned Grant Proposal #: 88

Project Title: The Art of Airing Out

Grade Level(s): 6-8 # of Students DIRECTLY involved: 600+/year

Subject Area(s): Fine Arts I, II, & III

Amount Requested: \$ 6,000

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)

- | | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Early Childhood Development | <input type="checkbox"/> Extended Education for Staff |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Enhanced Programming for Advanced Students | <input type="checkbox"/> Emphasis on Student Performance |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fine Arts | <input type="checkbox"/> STEM |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Literacy | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Enrichment |

#88- Dry Rack Grant – The Art of Airing Out to Dry

Project description: Our art department urgently requires air drying racks. With over 600 students split between three teachers, we are short 400 student work drying spaces. We face significant challenges in drying and organizing student artwork. This shortage leads to potential damage and hinders our students' creative process. We request funding for 15 new, durable drying racks to ensure each class has adequate drying space.

Rationale: Drying racks are an absolute requirement of the painting process. Drying racks are needed for art for several important reasons, primarily to ensure the artwork dries properly and to protect it from damage. Many art mediums like paint (watercolor, acrylic, tempera), ink, and glues remain wet for a significant period. Placing wet artwork flat on a surface can easily lead to smudging or smearing as the wet surface comes into contact with the table or other pieces. When applying multiple layers of paint or other media, drying racks allow each layer to dry completely without disturbing the subsequent layers. Drying racks allow air to circulate freely around all sides of the artwork. This promotes more even and consistent drying, reducing the risk of warping, buckling, or cracking, especially in thicker applications of paint or on paper. When artwork is placed flat, moisture can become trapped underneath, potentially leading to mold growth or uneven drying times. Drying racks allow you to dry multiple pieces of artwork simultaneously in a relatively small footprint. They provide a designated and organized space for drying artwork, preventing it from being scattered around and potentially damaged. In summary, drying racks are an essential tool for artists of all levels working with wet media. They contribute to the quality, longevity, and overall success of the artwork by ensuring proper drying, preventing damage, and promoting organization.

To remain a District of Distinction in the visual arts, Waco ISD must compete in a myriad of contests during the school year. For Waco ISD to maintain its District of Distinction status in the visual arts through competitive participation, having adequate and proper drying facilities for student artwork is crucial. The effort and skill students put into their competition pieces need to be protected during the drying process. Smudged paint, warped paper, or dust-covered surfaces can significantly detract from the visual impact and potentially lower their chances in competitions. Competition artwork is often judged on its overall presentation. Properly dried pieces look cleaner, more professional, and demonstrate attention to detail, which can impress judges. Damaged artwork due to improper drying might require students to redo significant portions or even entire pieces. This wastes valuable time and resources, especially when deadlines for competitions are tight. Investing in adequate drying racks demonstrates the district's commitment to providing the necessary resources for a thriving visual arts program. This can contribute to maintaining the District of Distinction status. By providing the right tools for the drying process, Waco ISD is directly supporting the success of its visual arts students in these competitions. Students can be confident that their hard work will be presented in the best possible condition. For Waco ISD to effectively compete and maintain its District of Distinction in visual arts, investing in and utilizing appropriate drying racks is not just a

convenience, but a necessity for preserving the quality of student artwork and ensuring their best chances of success in competitions. They are a fundamental piece of equipment that directly supports the goals and standards of a distinguished visual arts program.

Goals: Teaching students how to properly dry and protect their artwork instills good habits, respects their creative efforts, and ultimately leads to better outcomes. Teaching students the importance of proper drying and protection is essential in art production. The consequences of improper drying could result in smudging, warping, and sticking. Taking good care of artwork shows respect for your own creativity and hard work!

By consistently teaching, demonstrating, and reinforcing how to properly dry and protect their artwork, empowers students to become responsible artists who understand the importance of proper drying and protection for their creations.

Plan of Operation: I plan to teach my students the correct way to place artwork on drying racks, how to handle wet pieces carefully, and the reasons behind each step. I will demonstrate how to load drying racks without overcrowding, ensuring adequate space for airflow. Emphasize placing artwork flat and avoiding overlapping. As soon as the funds will be available, I would purchase and use dry racks throughout the year. I plan on displaying our students' artwork in our school and at various competitions for all students, staff, parents and community to enjoy.

Communication & Dissemination: Waco ISD has a Facebook fine arts page as well as our school. Waco ISD has their own television station. Our student work is photographed and put on display for the public to view. I love sharing the talent of our students with the community. Students and especially parents love seeing their work displayed. Many art contests like Heart O' Texas Fair have the students' artwork displayed for all of the public to see in person. Partnership with the Waco Education Foundation would be more attainable for student artwork to be displayed.

Evaluation: Our students are evaluated using the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS). Investing in and ensuring the accessibility of proper drying racks is a tangible way to support the TEKS, elevate the quality of your students' artwork, and maximize their potential for recognition in competitions. It's a fundamental element in fostering a thriving and successful visual arts program within Waco ISD.

Long Term Implications: Students learn valuable habits of care, respect for their own work and the work of others, and attention to detail. These habits can translate to other areas of their academic and personal lives. By consistently drying their work properly, students see the positive impact on the final outcome. This reinforces the importance of each step in the artistic process and encourages higher standards of

craftsmanship. When students' artwork is well-preserved and presented, they feel a greater sense of accomplishment and pride in their creations. This can fuel their passion for art and encourage further exploration.

Key Personnel: I have a Graphic Arts degree from Baylor University and have been teaching for 19 years. There is currently one other art teacher at our school. We had three art teachers, but one had to resign due to personal reasons. We should have three art teachers again next year. The three of us would teach/monitor our students how to correctly take care and dry their artwork.

Budget and Budget Narrative/Justification: Dry racks are necessary for art students to safely have an area to store and dry their work. Our students/artists have to present their artwork at myriad art competitions and or art exhibitions. The artwork must be in the highest quality in order for them to perform well. (Long term Supplies/Equipment) The dry racks I have chosen are the Drying Rack, Back-to-Back Double-Sided Mobile Art Drying Rack with Wire Shelves for Works of Art, Black Powder Coated Finish, for Schools and Art Clubs, 50-layer. The cost is approximately \$6,000.

Providing proper drying racks isn't just about getting artwork dry; it's a tangible opportunity to explicitly teach students/artists how to properly care for their creations. This fosters a sense of ownership, respect for their effort and materials, and an understanding of the importance of each step in the artistic process. It instills valuable life skills beyond the art room. Quality drying racks are indeed a long-term asset to the art program. Unlike consumable supplies, durable racks can withstand years of use, making them a cost-effective investment over time. They will consistently provide a reliable solution for drying artwork for countless students in the years to come.

Thank you for considering the gift of the much needed dry racks.

