

PTA Gifts and Grants

Winter 2023-24



Guidelines for Grant Process

- Preference given for new, innovative initiatives that support Middlebrook students and/or staff.
- The Grants (Winter) application process is for items to be initiated and executed in the remainder of the 23-24 school year but can be executed in 24-25 due to timing.
- The Gifts (Spring) application process will open in the Spring for proposals that bring learning to life and create inspirational and impactful student experiences. These are for items executed in the 24-25 school year.

Under \$500

- ? Brief description: The following grants are proposals under \$500
- ? Supplies to encourage independence and collaboration in Lunch Bunch - Electric Kettle for hot chocolate and hand held vacuum
- ? Grant applicant: Lauren Mangieri, Speech Pathologist
- ? Total amount: \$80
- ? Vertical Whiteboards - Three 48in by 36in vertical whiteboards to mount in classroom for Math students, allow space on floor taken up by easels
- ? Grant applicant: Nicole Valentine, 7 Red math teacher
- ? Total amount: \$250



Under \$500

- ? Brief description: The following grants are proposals under \$500
- ? 7th Grade ELA Pod Books - Enhance the book choices available to students for free reading by purchasing recent award winners and new books.
- ? Grant applicant: 7th Grade ELA teachers
- ? Total amount: \$300
- ? Engineer a Wind Turbine - This grant will fund the purchase of a wind turbine testing station as well as non-consumable materials for designing and building scale model wind turbines.
- ? Grant applicant: Adam Shopis, iSTEM teacher
- ? Total amount: \$455

Drone Curriculum & Supplies

- ? Brief description: The grant would pay for one year's access (2024-2025) to the complete DroneBlocks curriculum which focuses on innovation and critical thinking through hands-on drone programming. Also, this grant would fund the maintenance of our drones for Coding class. Students routinely need new propellers, propeller guards or repair motors. On occasion, the drone is sent to California for more complicated repairs. Currently teacher is covering the costs for the repairs.
- ? Grant applicants: Danielle Bottinger, Coding teacher
- ? Total amount: \$900

Arts Festival

- ? Brief description: This grant proposal is to be used for preparation of the art work for the school wide ARTS Festival on March 27th. It will support: food, art products, art demonstrations, decoration and for the actual opening. It is an opportunity for all students to prepare and experience an art show. Students will choose their own artwork, prepare it for display, write labels and learn to display it. The students will have an opportunity to experience an art gallery opening while celebrating all ARTS in Middlebrook.
- ? Grant applicants: Joanna Lepore, Sue Labarbera, Frank Porto and the rest of the STRIDE Teachers
- ? Total amount: \$1,400

World Language Assembly

- ? Brief description: This grant proposal is to help fund our annual World Language Week assembly we present to our entire student body at Middlebrook School. This year our focus is on music, instruments, and culture of the Caribbean. This assembly embodies Wilton School District's vision for our Portrait of a Graduate in which students learn to be socially sensitive citizens and leaders. It also reinforces our schools' aim to support multicultural educational opportunities and diversity. Lastly, this assembly helps connect our diverse community of learners to see how our differences can be celebrated and highlighted.
- ? Grant applicant: Joanna Cloherty, Middlebrook Instructional Leader of World Language
- ? Total amount: \$1,765

Flexible Seating & Sensory Support

- ? Brief description: This grant proposal is for supporting sixth grade students when transitioning from elementary to middle school. It is to provide sensory supports to assist students with self-regulation, increasing attention, engagement and overall success. With the aid of alternate seating and other sensory supports, students will be able to get movement and other stimulation which will aid in their ability to attend to tasks, increase stamina and be more successful and happier in school.
- ? Grant applicant: Toby Kawulicz, Dean and Trane Kessler
- ? Total amount: \$1,200

Diversity and Acceptance

- ? Brief description: This grant proposal is to support Diversity and Acceptance for all at Middlebrook. It will be used to bring "You don't know me until you know me" a Presentation by Dr. Mykee Fowlin. Dr. Fowlin's program is a dramatic presentation on diversity and acceptance. His mission is to create an atmosphere of worldwide inclusion, not just tolerance, towards all people. Dr. Fowlin states, "we are capable of transforming the world, for the good, but this work starts from within; it is the process of turning our hurt into self-reflection, healing, and then action. It is our simple, but intentional, behaviors where significant change takes place. The gesture of us smiling, acknowledging the existence of another, is as powerful as any other deed done in the world."
- ? Grant applicant: Michael Gordon, Music educator, FAPA IL, Equity & Inclusion IL, advisor to the WHS Racial Equity & Diversity Club
- ? Total amount: \$5,100

Family & Consumer Equipment

- ? Brief description: This grant proposal is to be used to resupply the Middlebrook Family and consumer science room with equipment. Replacing broken and aging items.
- ? Grant applicants: Frank Proto, Family & Consumer Science Teacher
- ? Total amount: \$2,800

7th Grade Shakesperience

- ? Brief description: This grant proposal is to be used Shakesperience provides an introduction to Shakespeare and allows for students to participate in Shakespearean skits. This exciting program helps students truly hear the language and see it acted out. It also provides exposure to poetry (specifically sonnets -tested on standardized tests) which are not in the current required curriculum. This is for 2024-25 school year
- ? Grant applicants:Katie Durkin, Terry Ellis, and Valerie Randazzo
- ? Total amount: \$3,300

Birds of Prey

- ? Brief description: This grant proposal is to bring back Mr. Eyring who has a collection of rare raptors (kestrels, falcons, owls) which he brings to MB and flies at each assembly. He discusses environmental issues throughout his presentation. All of the topics he discusses relate to Unit 2 Ecology, Energy Transfer in Ecosystems of the 7th grade science course. He ties in food webs, adaptations of organisms, toxins and watersheds. This is for 2024-25 school year.
- ? Grant applicant: Joanna Cloherty, World Language Instructional Leader, 8th Grade Spanish teacher Middlebrook
- ? Total amount: \$1,650

LLC Grant Requests

- ? Brief description: This grant proposal is to support the LLC in various ways:
- ? LLC Makerspace Stations -During unstructured and structured times throughout the school day- students have the opportunity to visit the LLC to explore their interests or discover new ones. The LLC stations provide time for students to de-stress and craft/make/design/problem solve while having fun with each other or on their own. Stations are very popular through both 6th and 7th grade and our materials are consumables- once they are used they are gone.
- ? Total amount: \$3,400

LLC Grant Requests

- ? Brief description: This grant proposal is to support the LLC in various ways:
- ? Nonfiction & Fiction Award Winning Titles -To provide a selection of the latest award winning books as well as student requested (and journal reviewed) titles- in print and potential e-book format. LLC has worked to create a collection which meets the needs of MB curriculum as well as student interest. Award winning titles typically are announced in January or later when budgets have been depleted. As we receive requests from students for titles we want to be responsive and when we move into the new year budget funds may not be available.
- ? Total amount: \$1,000

LLC Grant Requests

- ? Brief description: This grant proposal is to support the LLC in various ways:
- ? Destiny Deep Drive Professional Learning-This grant is for on demand professional learning for the Library Media Specialists at Middlebrook. Our MB LLC team can then share their learning with the other LLC staff members district wide. Our software program for the LLCs has issued a variety of updates the last few years which would allow us to communicate/highlight/spotlight new titles, classic titles, collections of titles while also sharing news of LLC events (ex:TeenTober, Wilton Reads, Visiting Author, Poetry Month) thus better supporting district initiatives as well as literacy standards.
- ? Total amount: \$600

LLC Grant Requests

- ? Brief description: This grant proposal is to support the LLC in various ways:
- ? Visiting Author 2024-2025- This grant is in anticipation of a visiting author for the 2024-2025 school year- we have estimated an amount in the hopes that we would be able to have an in person author visit for the whole school or Zoom author visits for each grade level. We hope this estimated amount would cover the cost of the author as well as promotional materials for students.
- ? Total amount: \$3,000