

Moberly Public Schools Foundation, Inc. Mini-Grant Application

Submission Deadline: October 1, 2010
Notification of successful applications: October 13, 2010
Grant to be presented at November 9, 2010 School Board Meeting

<u>Christopher Renner</u>	<u>Gratz Brown Elementary/3rd-4th</u>	<u>52 Students</u>
Teacher Requesting Mini-Grant	School/Grade Level	# of Students Served

Area of Interest: Enhancing student writing through the use of graphic storyboards.

- I. Description of what you wish to do. Please be sure to include why and how this project enriches and enhances the educational program. Incomplete applications will not be given consideration.
(Use additional sheets as needed.)

Students must be proficient in writing to be successful in the future job market. Many students with disabilities struggle to find success with written communication. Some struggling students find themselves stifled prior to initiating their writing assignments. A differentiated approach to engaging students in writing is through the use of storyboards. Storyboards are the visual representation of a story. Storyboards are often used to plan sequences in a story; they are often utilized in developing movies, video games and cartoons. Storyboards are similar to the cartoon boxes seen in syndicated comic strips. Storyboards represent a prewriting phase of story construction. Students with disabilities often benefit from visualizing parts of a story's construction. Through the use of visual storyboards students can attend to the important sequencing steps of any story. Students are more likely to develop the introduction, main idea, and conclusion when they are presented with a visual format. Students with disabilities can overcome their resistance to writing through the incorporation of storyboards.

To meet Missouri State Standards, elementary students must be able to plan and construct coherent writing products. To meet these Show-Me Standards, students must acquire a solid foundation in writing. I would be interested in accessing a computer based software program to assist my student in expressing their ideas. Storyboard Quick is a software application that makes developing visual stories accessible for elementary students. I would be interested in instructing my students to use storyboards to enhance their writing skills. The ease of developing visual scenes could increase student motivation to compose their best writing efforts. Students would be more likely to include all of the important components of a given writing assignment.

I would like to purchase and use Storyboard Quick to energize my students with their writing. I would guide them through the written composition process and provide time for them to frame their writing with pictures. An exciting feature of this software application is the ability to import pictures from actual community settings. My student could take digital pictures of school settings, like the cafeteria, and compose digital actors (cartoons) in the scenes. I could use these Gratz Brown scenes to have students reinforce PBS expectations in writing. To assist my instruction in writing with visualization, I would be interested in purchasing the book, Visual Tools for Differentiating Reading and Writing Instruction by Roger Essley. I would be excited to incorporate visual elements of writing instruction throughout my classroom lessons. After developing some fluency with the software, I would be interested in working with my special education colleagues to extend the writing lessons to other grade levels. Text-challenged learners could benefit from the practice of enhancing writing lessons with graphic storyboards.

To evaluate the success of this project, I would submit a written report of the gains students have experienced with the use of the software. I would include a storyboard representation of the phases students have progressed through in their writing. I expect that the addition of simple storyboard prewriting will have a significant impact on writing projects.

II. Budget (\$300 maximum). Be specific, all costs must be shown. (Again, use additional sheets as necessary.)

Software: StoryBoard Quick from Power Production Software	\$179.99
Book: Visual Tools for Differentiating Reading and Writing Instruction by Roger Essley	\$18.59
Camera Memory Card	\$25.00
Total	\$223.58

Signature of Applicant Christy Keen

Signature of Building Administrator Jella M. Bell
 {signifies approval for submission of super-grant application}

Submit typed copy of Application, along with attachments:

Submit via email to: sarment@orscheln.com
 (Susan Arment – Secretary, Moberly Public Schools Foundation, Inc.)

COMMITTEE USE ONLY		
Approved _____	Amount Approved _____	Project Not Approved _____
Comments: _____		

Mini-Grant Terms and Conditions

- ✎ Applicants must be full-time faculty members employed by the Moberly Public Schools.
- ✎ Two or more teachers may collaborate to write one Mini-Grant, but the sum will not exceed the maximum \$300 per application.
- ✎ Teachers should propose a project they want to do with their students, but are unable to consider because of cost. Projects will be approved that "enhance" projects, programs or events. Grants are not intended to support entire projects, programs or events.
- ✎ Ideas for Mini-Grants may come from any and all instructional areas.
- ✎ Teachers are limited to one Mini-Grant per teacher per semester (Joint grants count as one award for each teacher involved.)
- ✎ Mini-Grant funds may be spent for technology, equipment, educational resources and project-specific materials. Mini-Grant funds may not be spent for classroom library books, textbooks or field trips.

- ✎ **An evaluation of the Mini-Grant project, containing 50 words or more, with photographs, media coverage, etc., IS RECOMMENDED and should be submitted to the Foundation prior to the end of the grant period. Additional consideration will be given future grant applications if the teacher has submitted project evaluations for prior grants.**

Funding Source

- ✎ Funding for the Mini-Grant program is provided by tax-deductible donations to the ***Moberly Public Schools Foundation, Inc.***

Budget

- ✎ The maximum amount for a Mini-Grant is \$300.00.

Payment

- ✎ Payment will be made directly to the Moberly Public Schools for disbursement to the grant recipient.

Judging

- ✎ A review committee of the Moberly Public Schools Foundation, Inc. will read the Mini-Grant applications and rank them based on the above criteria. The final decision is the full and entire prerogative of the MPSF review committee.
- ✎ The committee, as a group, will choose the winner(s) after a complete review of the application. Such review may require personal interviews with those submitting the proposals and other schools officials, as necessary.
- ✎ Approval will be made in the form of a letter setting out any additional specifications and requirements to the teacher making the submission for the Mini-Grant. Following official announcements of winners the media may be contacted.