



PTO GIFTS PROGRAM

Requests for PTO Funding 2017-18

Any teacher, parent, or student who has a request for funds from the PTO must fill out this form. Please answer these questions as thoroughly as possible, providing supporting detail and information. When completed, please return to the administration at either school by **Monday, October 23, 2017**.

1. Define your request:

I would like to request to run a weather balloon project during the Spring of 2018. I plan to partner with Mr. Hayes (parent) who has experience doing this project. He will help coordinate the technology while my focus will be on working with the students. The project would be open to all students in grades 6-8. Students will complete an application demonstrating their enthusiasm and time commitment to the project. 10 students plus three student leaders will be accepted to join the project. Students looking for and ready for a challenge in STEM would be the best fit for this project. My goal is to meet with the student leaders 3 days for 1 hour each before the group meets to develop their leadership and help coordinate from behind the scenes. The leaders will also be responsible for making material choices given the \$400 budget. This is true of constraints put on engineers and scientists in the real world. The entire team (three leaders plus 10 other students) will meet for 5, one hour sessions before the actual balloon launch. I would like to develop mini teams with the students. A larger team of engineers and a smaller team of students who are more interested in language arts. This smaller team will focus on PR (writing newspaper articles, etc...) while the larger team will focus on the payload logistics. The entire team will meet for one week (Monday through Friday) for one hour after school. Meeting consecutive days will keep student motivation high, similar to an engineering sprint. The most amazing part of launching a weather balloon is doing something that feels impossible to students. The group will meet on a weather permitting Saturday or Sunday near the end of May to launch the balloon and track its journey. This is an 8-10 hour commitment. Students and their parents (or arranged carpool) will meet at the launch site.

2. Amount requested:

Consumable Materials: (Balloon, helium, payload, parachute, rope, string, tape, etc...) - **\$400 This is enough to cover these materials while still having the student leaders make strategic material decisions.**

Food for launch day: (\$10 per student for breakfast while we wait to see where the balloon goes using tracker data)- **\$130**

Non- Consumable Materials: (Borrowing from Mr. Hayes- no cost to the district), Go-Pro, data tacker, cameras, etc...

Teacher Time: 5 hours pre-planning, 3 hours with student leaders, 5 hours with entire team of students before launch, 10 hours day of launch, 2 hours after launch to synthesize the experience and celebrate with the students. (25 hours total at \$41 an hour) **\$1,025**

Total Cost: \$1,555

3. Can this project be funded in stages? If yes, what timetable is involved? If no, please explain your due date for funds.

The project is intensive for a week or two so would best be paid in one lump in the Spring of 2018 (early March to have time for student leaders to budget and order materials). The time paid to the teacher can be paid in stages. (5 hours pre-planning between January and February, 3 hours with student leaders in March, and 17 hours in May)

4. Has this request been reviewed by the school administration? What was their response as to its merit and priority?

This was reviewed by Dr. Sukenik and she mentioned it would be a good option for eager/high achieving STEM students and suggested an application process.

5. Number of Students that will be impacted or benefit from your request:

13 Students

6. Is this a one-time request or do you envision needing additional PTO funds in the future or long range? If you will require additional PTO funds, please explain why this cannot be added into your annual budget.

I am very excited to try a weather balloon launch. I see many connections to and beyond the middle school curriculum. If successful, this could be a project that is offered each year.

7. What is the intended goal of your request? Would it have any other uses or applications? Is this a start up program or is it enhancing an existing program? Use additional paper if needed.

The goal is to launch a weather balloon into SPACE! This has been done by Mr. Hayes in past years unofficially. This would be the first official launch sponsored by SRS. Depending on the success of the launch and quality of data collected, the results could be shared with students. I would also like to encourage the students to think about how they can share their project in a meaningful way. One idea would be to present to 5th grade who studies the atmosphere in the Spring. I want this to be authentic and student driven. I would also like to encourage the language arts team of students on the project to reach out to local media.

8. What are the long range benefits of your request?

I really do believe if this project is funded it will be something the kids will remember forever! Although there are many science, engineering (and even language arts) connections I think the most memorable part of the experience is doing something that seems impossible. This is a common theme in real world space exploration throughout time.

9. If you are requesting a capital asset/investment, please provide a minimum of two options/pricing quotes on the item and attach to this form. Please identify your first choice and why.

Option 1 (first choice): Breakfast provided for the kids and teacher compensation

Total Cost: \$1,555

Option 2: Kids are on their own for breakfast after the launch (saves \$130)

Total Cost: \$1,435

Option 3: No teacher compensation

Total Cost: \$530

Option 4: No teacher compensation or breakfast after the launch

Total Cost: \$400

10. Have you exhausted all other funding options before coming to the PTO Gifts Program?

I have exhausted all other funding options by submitting a proposal for an extra curricular at the end of last school year. Also, this is not a part of my annual science budget.