



PTO GIFTS PROGRAM

Requests for PTO Funding 2016-17

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 **Friday, October 21, 2016**.

1. Define your request:

“Can we do Quaver today?” This is the request I receive nearly weekly from Middlefork first (and second) graders, as they walk eagerly into the music room. What they’re asking is for a music lesson using the most engaging curriculum and resources I’ve ever used, and that’s in 30 years of being a music educator. Students can’t wait for the next Quaver module and they literally cheer when I tell them “yes, today we’re going to learn from Professor Quaver.”

The Quaver Music Curriculum is a comprehensive and customizable web-based alternative to general music textbooks. Quaver’s K-3 Curriculum consists of over 150 complete, lesson plans, correlated to the Music Standards set forth by the NCCAS. I can also customize student curriculum, choosing from more than 2,500 resources in the Quaver Library or importing content of my own from my media library, professional resources, and much more! Quaver Music is a completely digital curriculum, that I can launch in any classroom and integrate student technology, as well.

Middlefork School already owns a license through January, 2021 for the First Grade Quaver Curriculum, only. For three years prior to that, I used the free (limited) website, QuaverMusic.com, on and off, and in these combined years, I’ve seen student engagement go up and witnessed an increased desire to learn about music from home. Not only that, but my First Grade curriculum was the first grade level to directly align with the new (2014) Illinois Music Standards.

With state standards included on every lesson plan and cutting-edge technology built right in, Quaver’s Curriculum comes with tools I use to engage and assess every student. Students are also given ample opportunity to practice in class or at home through free student accounts at QuaverMusic.com. This virtual world of music exploration and fun allows students to compose original music, travel through time and space to uncover musical genres, and play online music games to reinforce skills learned in the classroom. For more information on Quaver Music, see QuaverMusic.com/infocenter.

I am requesting money for the purchase of an additional 5-year license for Third Grade.

2. **Amount requested:** A 5-year license, allowing for use and support of all the following materials, costs \$1300 per grade. The purchase of a license for each grade-level package includes Lesson Plans & Components / ClassPlay (over 500 songs with supporting materials) / Resource Manager (to create my own lessons using Quaver resources) / Extra resources for differentiation / World Music modules / Bach's Brain online quizzes / Recorder modules for Third Grade / Site-License / Unplugged Backup Resources (for use if the internet is down) / Training & Support (which I’ve used, and is excellent).
3. **Can this project be funded in stages? If yes, what timetable is involved? If no, please explain your due date for funds.** This can be funded in stages of \$1300 per grade. For now, I’m requesting the

purchase of the Third Grade curriculum materials, to complement the First Grade program we already have. The \$1300 is one lump sum.

4. **Has this request been reviewed by the school administration? What was their response as to its merit and priority?** Yes, I've reviewed this with Dr. Greene and she is supportive of this purchase.
5. **Number of Students that will be impacted or benefit from your request:** *Quaver's Curriculum will impact every student at Middlefork School, nearly 200 children, as they pass through First and Third Grades. I'm sure I'll also occasionally use these materials, as appropriate, with Kindergarten and Second grades, as well! Beyond what they experience in the classroom, students will be able to access QuaverMusic.com for free at home and can introduce the rest of their family to the free site. With Musicals and other opportunities for performance embedded in the Curriculum, the entire community will benefit from a focus on solid music education and a lifelong love of music!*
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.** This request is for a 5-year license, so no further funds would be needed until 2022. The renewal rate is not estimated to change, so I may be looking for an additional \$1300, for each grade level in 4-5 years. While I can't guarantee the funding situation at Middlefork so far in the future, *I can commit to making the most of this program for the next 5 years, and evaluating its success with my administration along the way.* IF things are as successful as I anticipate them to be, I could also envision requesting funds to purchase the Second Grade program.

You might be curious as to what happens in five years (as was I). In five years, Middlefork gets to keep the Quaver UnPlugged kit which are the offline resources.

Quaver Unplugged includes:

- PDFs of every lesson plan
 - PDFs of every printable (Worksheets, Scores, Extra Credit, Quizzes, Lyrics)
 - Virtually every Lesson Screen (over 2,500 screens)
 - One key song per module (K-5 includes 72 modules) as an MP3
 - 4 DVDs containing all 30 high-energy Quaver episodes
- So we would still own materials if we choose not to renew.
- Additionally, *QuaverMusic is updated 3 times each 5-year period. It would remain brand new, updating multiple times each year, adding current music, methods, ideas and technology.* I've seen this in the currently-owned First Grade program. Every few months, they add new songs, enrichment activities, interactive activities for students at home, items into the "teacher toolkit", and assessment materials.

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.**

Quaver's Curriculum will serve to greatly enhance our existing music program. It has been shown to benefit students beyond the music classroom by making strong cross-curricular connections to math, science, history, language arts, and much more! I will use this program to guide instruction and track student performance and growth. In addition, it will give students the opportunity to access additional learning opportunities at home through the free website, QuaverMusic.com.

- 8. What are the long range benefits of your request?** I believe the Quaver Curriculum will lead to enormous benefits in our students, including increased retention, improved behavior (due to high engagement), and stronger performance on musical assessments. A survey administered by 16 school districts located in 11 different states measured the impact of Quaver's Curriculum on teachers and students. Teachers reported a positive impact on their lesson planning and job satisfaction and an increase in student retention, engagement, good behavior, and the response from students with Special Needs. I have seen such results in my 1st graders and look forward to seeing the benefits extended to Third Grade, as well.
- 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. There is only one price and one outlet to purchase this program.**
- 10. Have you exhausted all other funding options before coming to the PTO Gifts Program? Yes.**