



2013 - 14 Educational Grant Application
Deadline: Wednesday, March 20, 2013, by 4pm

Name of Grant: ___Smart Music for Smart Students_____

Name of person(s) submitted by: (if submitted by a team of teachers, grade level, etc. please list all names involved and select one individual to be the contact person for the grant.)

___Theresa Killingsworth_____

Campus/Department: ___Curtis MS_____ **Grade Level(s):** ___7 & 8_____

Total Dollar Amount Requested: ___\$1276._____

Number of students who would be involved/impacted by grant: ___430 + annually_____

Name of principal or immediate supervisor who will approve submission: ___Becky Kennedy_____

Project Purpose: What is the problem, need or opportunity that this grant will address? What is the **student need** which the project will address? The purpose should explain **what students will know and be able to do** as a result of this project. Please explain how a problem will be addressed or a situation improved because of the grant. **(200 words or less)**

Our students are technology savvy. They spend hours playing video games, watching television, and exploring numerous areas of social media. It should not surprise teachers that traditional strategies are no longer effective for this generation of students. Our current student population needs a more varied approach to teaching with more focus on aural and visual stimuli with an inclusion of technology. Given these needs, how does a music teacher provide a balanced approach to teaching the subject area ensuring the use of their need for more technology?

One effective method is to incorporate more technology and to use it to enhance the student's ability to perform independently through the implementation of SmartMusic. This interactive tool, used by music educators across the country, transforms the way students practice and learn. As they play along with music onscreen, it gives students immediate feedback on their performance.

With the implementation of this technology it will enhance the students' ability to describe and analyze musical sound and demonstrate musical artistry. It will provide for further evaluation of the individual student members of the music programs and provide teachers and students an additional method to evaluate the quality and effectiveness of personal performances thereby increasing the performance of the whole choir/band/orchestra.

Project Description: How will the project or program be implemented? Describe activities and tasks. Who is the target population and in what ways will they benefit? **(200 words or less)**

We would like to see the implementation of the SmartMusic system in the 3 music organizations at Curtis Middle School. The addition of the SmartMusic technology along with microphones to the full ensemble rooms and the practice rooms will provide for numerous areas of feedback above the traditional teaching methods that currently take place.

The target population is all band, choir and orchestra students at CMS totaling about 430 students. These students will benefit from SmartMusic by receiving feedback during and after their performance allowing them to make the necessary adjustments to improve. It will also benefit students who do not take individualized instruction as they can use the "at home" feature of SmartMusic. Students will also be able to prepare for Solo & Ensemble Contest, All-City auditions and All-Region auditions with the use of SmartMusic.

Implementation would be throughout all 3 organizations by utilizing practice rooms, full ensemble rooms and before/after school access as needed. This technology would allow feedback above the traditional teaching methods currently being used. Students would rotate through practice rooms to provide individual time with SmartMusic working on assigned activities including performance tests, practice pieces and sightreading exercises. Teachers will monitor progress through the system.

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Allen ISD Goals/TEKS: Which Allen ISD goals/TEKS does this project support? Limit to top two or three examples. **(50 words or less)**

This project supports numerous Music 7 & 8 TEKS. The most important one is **(7.6 and 8.6)**

Response/evaluation. The student responds to and evaluates music and musical performances. The student is expected to: (A) design and apply criteria for evaluating the quality and effectiveness of music and musical performances;(B) evaluate the quality and effectiveness of personal performances; and (8.6C) apply specific criteria appropriate for the style of the music and offer constructive suggestions for improvement;

The Curtis Middle School Campus Improvement plan lists Goal 1 as “Transform the traditional classroom into an innovative learning experience that meets the needs of the individual learner.” Every child deserves the highest quality education. The implementation of this project would allow for innovation teaching and evaluation of each individual in the music classroom.

Measurements: What specific measurements will be used to evaluate the effectiveness of the project? **(100 words or less)**

The quality and level of performance of the students will be raised. This will be measured by the level of music that students will be able to perform, an increase in the number of students to be selected to the All-City and All-Region performance groups, and by ratings at contest. I believe that we will also see an improvement of overall skill level and self-esteem of individuals in our organization because of the evaluation tools of the program.

Teaching Methods: What teaching methods will be used to implement this project? **(100 words or less)**

The SmartMusic project will allow us to focus on the individual student’s depth of knowledge. Teachers can focus on the complexity of the assignment to gauge the student’s success. SmartMusic documents achievement and measures student growth. This project will put students beyond the habitual response and into connection within and beyond the content area. It will force the student to analyze, assess, identify problem areas and develop a plan of action to obtain superior results. SmartMusic will support the music teachers in achieving the intended outcome for each music learner.

Timeline for project: Funds will be available after September 1, 2013. **(50 words or less)**

Our timeline would be after the first week of school (if installed) continuing throughout the entire school year. Students would have access daily to SmartMusic.

Curriculum/System Support: Explain how this idea or project enhances/supports Allen ISD curriculum or existing systems. **(100 words or less)**

The Music departments of Curtis Middle School are dedicated to ensuring that every student is provided a safe environment to learn, be encouraged in their endeavors and prepare to have a lifelong appreciation and understanding of music. Music makes a difference. It affects people’s lives, children’s education and the quality of life in America’s communities.

The addition of the SmartMusic program into the existing music curriculum will enhance the refinement of basic fundamentals of performance, especially for the individual and allow for evaluation and demonstration of musical artistry.

Additional Comments: Include any additional comments or information. **(100 words or less)**

The mission statement for the district states that “Allen ISD cultivates innovation in education that empowers every learner to realize his or her full potential.” This is the embodiment of what SmartMusic can do for our students. This technology would give every music student at Curtis Middle School the empowerment to realize their full potential in music because of the assessment feedback, the ability to record, listen and evaluate their personal performance and the appraisal that instructors can give students that could get lost in the masses of our music groups.

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Grant Budget: specific product numbers, vendor addresses, etc. **are not required** on this budget page. The name of the product or the type of training or estimated cost of transportation is sufficient.

***Please round numbers to the nearest dollar amount.**

Instructional Supplies or Resources: (Books, Manipulatives, etc.)	
	Total: \$
Technology: (Software, License, etc.)	
SmartMusic Educator Subscription - 3 administrative licenses - one for each music organization (Band, Choir, Orchestra)	420
SmartMusic additional subscriptions - 3 additional computers for Choir - 4 additional computers for Band - 5 additional computers for Orchestra	396
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Voice Microphones – 4 at \$39.95 each - USB Vocal Headphone/Mic with 10 foot cable	160
Instrumental Mic - 10 at \$29.95 each - USB Instrumental Mic with 10 foot cable	300
Staff Training / Staff Development:	
	Total: \$
Transportation:	
	Total: \$
Other Expenses:	
	Total: \$
TOTAL AMOUNT REQUESTED	\$ 1276

Additional Funds: Are there any additional funds available for this grant? Campus or district funds? PTA funds? If you have or will be seeking funds from any other sources to help with this project, please explain.

We are not seeking any additional funds to start this program and purchase the hardware. We will provide the computers from on campus to run the software. However, our long term plans will be to budget for the annual subscription for the software licenses to keep it in full swing!