FOUNDATION FOR ALLEN SCHOOLS

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

Name of Grant: MATHCOUNTS®

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.)

Don Jung

Campus/Department: Vaughan Elementary School **Grade Level(s):** 6th Grade

Total Dollar Amount Requested: $ 555.00

Number of students who would be involved/impacted by grant: 65 (all 2013-2014 6th graders)

Name of principal or immediate supervisor who will approve submission: Honey Gray

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)**

MATHCOUNTS is a nationwide enrichment club and competition program specifically designed for middle school math students offering a fast paced and exciting curriculum of problem solving opportunities. Hundreds of creative problems meeting National Council of Teachers of Mathematics standards for grades 6-8 will help students develop better problem-solving and critical-thinking skills. Unique scenarios are presented which will require group discussion and collaboration to arrive at one or more solutions. Many MATHCOUNTS problems can be used daily within the scope of the classroom curriculum.

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)**

MATHCOUNTS will be implemented on a continuous basis during the course of 6th grade math. In addition, there will be an opportunity for students to participate in an after school club where the focus will be providing an enrichment program for mathematics. The after school club will emphasize team problem solving. Participation and achievement recognition and rewards can be earned through the national organization.

Other opportunities exist in the form of a MATHCOUNTS competition and Reel Math Challenge involving 10-20 students competing against other 6, 7, and 8 graders. The Preston Trail Chapter MATHCOUNTS Competition is scheduled in February (usually at UT Dallas) with top individuals advancing to state and national competitions. The Reel Math Challenge is an innovative program where teams of students commit to producing videos showing creative and real world problem solving skills of a mathematics scenario. The videos are then posted and voted on by the general public with the top videos advancing to a finals round.

The target population is 6th grade students of all mathematics abilities forming a math club and competing in the REEL Math Challenge and students of advanced skills competing for team placement on the MATHCOUNTS competition team.

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

- 6.11(A-D) The student applies 6th grade mathematics to solve problems connected to everyday experiences, investigations, and activities.
- 6.12(A-B) The student communicates about 6th grade mathematics through informal and mathematical language, representations and models.
- 6.13(A-B) The student uses logical reasoning to make conjectures and verify conclusions.

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

Effectiveness of this project will be assessed as we move through the curriculum looking specifically at improvements in the problem solving TEKS 6.11A through 6.13B. CFA's, benchmarks, simulations, and STAAR testing will be compared to previous 5th and 6th grade results focusing on improvements in problem solving skills.

Club and competition interest, enthusiasm, and effectiveness will be measured by assessing student commitment and participation as well as a survey completed by students during the spring semester.

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

Scenarios from the MATHCOUNTS problem bank will be implemented weekly, during tutoring sessions, and at club meetings. Most scenarios require deep critical thinking which will be accomplished through small group and paired collaboration. Because of the multi-step problem solving skills necessary, the multiple ways to solve a problem, and the progressive difficulty, students will be guided in classroom discussions allowing multiple strategies to be utilized.

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

Membership registration and competition deadlines are typically in December of the calendar year with discounts given to early registrations (usually by mid-October). Scenarios will be implemented weekly throughout the school year and interested students will compete in February of 2014.

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

MATHCOUNTS supports the Allen ISD curriculum by providing rigorous multi-step mathematics problems and scenarios meeting National Council of Teachers of Mathematics standards for 6th grade. Because the level of difficulty is increased, students of all levels will see the result of extending what they have already learned by applying their knowledge to many real world problems in multiple content areas.

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

Having participated in MATHCOUNTS on a smaller scale during the 2012-13 school-year, selected students from Vaughan Elementary competed at UT Dallas against area 6, 7, and 8 graders. While not placing in any category, they were exposed to some great problem solving strategies as well as other very talented, high achieving students from both public and private area schools. Also, the bank of problems made available was used in class on multiple occasions, prompting thought provoking discussions in an attempt to come up with solutions. Having a bank of problems available from the workbook and especially the OPLET (Online Problem Library and Extraction Tool) would greatly benefit all of 6th grade and be very helpful where teacher time management is concerned.

Any funds that can be given toward this project would be greatly appreciated!

Foundation For Allen Schools: 2013-14 Educational Grant Application

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.)	
MATHCOUNTS Club	Free
REEL Math Challenge	Free
Competition program	$280
OPLET (12 month subscription)	$275
	Total: $555
Technology: (Software, License, etc.)	
	Total: $0
Staff Training / Staff Development:	
	Total: $0
Transportation:	
	Total: $0
Other Expenses:	
	Total: $0
TOTAL AMOUNT REQUESTED	**$555**

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 have no funds currently available for this project.