



**2012-13 Educational Grant Application**  
**Deadline: Wednesday, March 7, 2012, by 4pm**

**Name of Grant:** 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Orientation: Transitioning to Middle School Successfully

**Name of person(s) submitted by:**

Kim Petty, Renae Perez, Jolene Johnson, Karen Foster, Heather Youngquist and Debra Day

**Campus/Department:** Ereckson MS, Ford MS and Curtis MS **Grade Level(s):** 7th

**Total Dollar Amount Requested:** \$2,146.00

Number of students who would be involved/impacted by grant: approximately 1,575

Name of principal or immediate supervisor who will approve submission: Phyllis Spain

**Project Summary/Purpose:** Be specific. What is the **student need** which the project will address? The purpose should describe **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.

Transitioning from elementary school to middle school is an exciting, yet challenging time for students. The student needs that will be addressed include: becoming familiar with the layout of the campus, procedures and policies, skills needed for academic success, clubs and organizations on campus, pitfalls to avoid and a question/answer session to address specific issues or concerns. Students attending 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Orientation will be able to transition from elementary school to middle school successfully. 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Orientation will allow students an opportunity to be on the middle school campus learning about middle school before the first day of school. Students will have the opportunity to meet campus administrators, teachers, staff and other students new to middle school. The adjustment time for students will be lessened through this program. Students will be able to establish a routine more quickly and increase their confidence in navigating the campus and following campus procedures. As a result of this program, student achievement will be increased.

**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?

The 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Orientation program will be implemented by the middle school campus counselors with the help of teacher volunteers and student leader volunteers. Incoming 7<sup>th</sup> grade students will register to attend the orientation. Students will be assigned a group which they will stay with throughout the morning. Upon arrival, students will be given a name tag with their group assignment. Pre-assigning groups allows students to meet other students from different elementary schools. Every student will receive a sheet protector containing campus information such as a map of the building. This will serve as a resource for future use as well as an example of how to organize their binder. They will also receive a dog tag with the campus name and mascot. The purpose of the dog tag is to give students something they can display to show ownership and pride for their middle school campus.

After registering, all students will attend a general session to kick-off the morning. This session includes performances from the cheerleaders, ice breaker activities and overview of the day. Students then divided into their assigned groups for the rotations. The four rotations will include: tour of campus, policies and procedures, success skills and clubs/organizations. Each rotation will last approximately 20 minutes. Students will be encouraged to write down questions on index cards during the rotations. At the conclusion of the rotations, all students will attend a closing session. This session will focus on questions/answers submitted during the rotations.

The target population of 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Orientation is incoming 7<sup>th</sup> graders. Increased confidence is a major benefit of this program because it decreases anxiety and transition time. Students as well as parents felt more self-assured after attending this orientation. Students are responsible for their own transportation.

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Which Allen ISD goals/TEKS does this project support? Limit to top two or three examples.

#### Counseling and Guidance Standards:

- A:A2.4 Apply knowledge and learning styles to positively influence school performance
- A:B1.3 Apply the study skills necessary for academic success at each level

#### Allen ISD Goals:

1. Provide opportunities for students to participate in meaningful activities that will connect students to their campus.
2. Every student experiences a personalized education that creates the spirit and capacity for success.

What specific measurements will be used to evaluate the effectiveness of the project?

Students will complete a pre and post test to evaluate the effectiveness of the program.

What teaching methods will be used to implement this project?

Counselors and teachers will use Smart Boards to share information. Students will be engaged in group activities throughout the morning. They will have the opportunity to experience hands-on activities in locating different areas on campus. A discussion led by student volunteers will give the incoming 7<sup>th</sup> graders a student's perspective on what to expect in middle school.

Timeline for project (Funds will be available after September 1, 2012):

Students will attend 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Orientation before the school year begins in August, 2012.

Explain how this idea or project enhances/supports Allen ISD curriculum or existing systems:

This program supports Allen ISD curriculum by increasing student success. The more comfortable a student feels on campus the more the student can focus on academics. Students will gain knowledge on tutoring, organization, procedures and other helpful information before school begins. The increase in knowledge will help them as they transition into 7<sup>th</sup> grade.

