



2012-13 Educational Grant Application

Deadline: Wednesday, March 7, 2012, by 4pm

Name of Grant: ¡Circus!...Continued

Name of person(s) submitted by: Shannon Adcock

Campus/Department: Green Elementary Physical Education Grade Level(s): K-6

Total Dollar Amount Requested: \$147

Number of students who would be involved/impacted by grant: 700 annually (all students at Green Elementary)

Name of principal or immediate supervisor who will approve submission: Mrs. Kelly Campman

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.

The ¡Circus!...Continued Grant is an expansion of the ¡Circus! Grant awarded to Green PE in the spring of 2009. The basis for the original grant was as follows:
As today's children become less active, there is a critical need for more engaging PE lessons that will get students excited about physical education and exercise. The circus is fun. Learning circus skills will get many children who feel excluded by more traditional games much more involved. By offering something out of the ordinary, the ¡Circus! Grant will supplement our strong curriculum and provide variety in covering the TEKS for K-6 PE. Several European countries have had great success in teaching circus skills such as juggling, balance, strength, and low-level tumbling because of the appeal to children. While circus skills are viewed as fun and entertaining, this is also serious exercise and fulfills many TEKS for ages Kindergarten through sixth grade in a varied and exciting manner.

Now in our third year of ¡Circus!, students' juggling skills have dramatically increased. The original grant included a variety of juggling implements including many scarves, a few juggling balls, and one set of juggling rings. In teaching juggling, one begins using scarves until the student has achieved repeated success. The next step is juggling balls or rings. The first year of the ¡Circus! Grant, only 10-25% of students in the upper grades were successful in juggling scarves and a very limited few were able to juggle balls or rings. Now, around 50% of third graders are ready to advance past scarves. The students' juggling skills have increased to a level surpassing our equipment! With the addition of twelve dozen juggling balls and six juggling rings, students' skill levels would be challenged for the next several years. Students have overwhelmingly loved the entire Circus Unit and have benefitted greatly from the variety the Foundation's grant afforded the PE program at Green as well as the huge increase in bilateral and hand-eye coordination that juggling provides.

Foundation For Allen Schools: 2012-13 Educational Grant Application

What students at Green have to say about learning to juggle:

- “I loved performing in front of the school because I’m usually not good at sports, but I can juggle!” Sarah, 6th grade, one of 20 students who demonstrated during an assembly
- “It was awesome!” Bryan, 5th grade
- “It was really hard, but when I finally got the hang of it, I was so excited. My mom let me juggle oranges at home!” Zack, 4th grade

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 vision of the ¡Circus!...Continued Grant remains a 2.5 week unit for grades K-6 in PE with one week entirely focused on juggling. All students at Green will benefit from learning to juggle. Juggling is great cardiovascular and pulmonary exercise which incorporates rhythm, balance, tenacity, and bilaterality.

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

The ¡Circus!...Continued Grant supports Allen ISD’s goals for personal fitness by increasing students’ activity levels and offering choices and variety. The circus elements of juggling, balance, strength, low-level tumbling, jump rope, and hula hoop reinforce all TEKS for grades K-6 associated with health and fitness, agility, balance, flexibility, aerobic endurance, left/right brain integration, spatial awareness, gross and fine motor skills, upper and lower body muscular strength and endurance.

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

AISD utilizes FitnessGram to gauge fitness levels for all third through twelfth graders. The ¡Circus!...Continued Grant provides students a variety of opportunities to pursue personal fitness and improve Green’s scores in all FitnessGram tests specifically in the areas of muscular strength and endurance and flexibility. At the conclusion of the unit, students will complete surveys regarding the Unit offering impressions on the scope of learning, personal favorite activities, the lessons learned, positive influences of the unit, and what needs improvement. The results of the surveys along with lesson plans for all seven grade levels will be available to all elementary campuses in Allen.

What teaching methods will be used to implement this project?

A variety of teaching methods will be employed. As PE classes are large and have a variety of skill and ability levels, the ¡Circus!...Continued Unit is a great opportunity for students to shine in different and possibly non-traditional roles in PE. All types of learners are reached through learning to juggle:

- Spatial learners enjoy visualizing juggling patterns
- Musical learners enjoy the rhythmic patterns of juggling
- Kinesthetic learners enjoy the physical nature of juggling
- Interpersonal learners love the opportunities for sharing, comparing, and cooperating that partner juggling provides
- Intrapersonal learners love to focus on individual juggling
- Logical and mathematical learners enjoy the sequencing and problem solving

Foundation For Allen Schools: 2012-13 Educational Grant Application

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

The ¡Circus!...Continued will be taught following the winter break beginning in January for 2.5 weeks. Juggling will be the focus of an entire week and continue as a station the following 1.5 weeks.

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

The ¡Circus!...Continued Grant enhances AISD physical education by offering students the experience of participating in a variety of activities and learning skills quite different from traditional sports and games while still accomplishing K-6 PE TEKS. The ¡Circus!...Continued Unit brings connections to various types of learners by offering a kinetic, visual, and hands-on experience. The ¡Circus!...Continued Grant’s additional juggling equipment will provide all students at Green

- Improved bilaterality – being able to use both the dominant hand and the non-dominant hand well is beneficial to students in other sports, those who play musical instruments and computer/technology usage
- Improved reflexes, focus, dexterity and hand-eye coordination
- Improved ability to read, write and reason as shown through the research of Dr. Carole E. Smith, Dr. Smith’s research has shown that “...learning to juggling can improve both handwriting and reading skills.” (Finnegan, Dave. *The Benefits of Learning to Juggle for Children*)
- Added confidence, there are multiple levels of success, two scarves, three scarves, one ball, two balls, three balls...

Include any additional comments or information (attach additional pages if necessary):

The original grant funded unit has been replicated by other elementary schools, will continue to be repeated annually in Green PE and be freely shared with any school that asks. The children’s favorite one or two circus elements as determined by the end-of-unit-survey will continue to be incorporated in Green’s Field Day. The grant application from 2009 has been shared with several schools in Allen, the DFW Area and one elementary school in New Mexico.

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	Vendor / Supplier	Cost per Item	Total
Juggling Balls set of 36	Gophersport.com	100	100
Rainbow Foam Rings set of 6	Gophersport.com	47	47
TOTAL AMOUNT REQUESTED			\$147.00

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.

No, our PTA is experiencing low funding this academic year and we expect many programs to be scaled down or cut.