



### **Examples of Giving Circle Proposals of Faculty Members from Other Schools**

#### **Project Name: Managing Anxiety at School: Working with Families and Teachers to Interrupt the Worry Cycle**

**Overview:** We would like to bring in Lynn Lyons, an internationally acclaimed author and expert on anxiety. She would do a lecture for staff on an in service day, and another lecture on the same day in the evening for parents.

#### **Project Name: First Lego League Team**

**Overview:** FIRST LEGO League is an international competition that challenges kids to think like scientists and engineers. Based on the year's theme, teams choose and solve a real-world problem in the Project. They also build, test, and program a LEGO EV3 robot using LEGO® MINDSTORMS® technology to solve a set of missions in the Robot Game. Throughout their experience, FIRST LEGO League's signature set of Core Values are emphasized, celebrating discovery, teamwork, and Gracious Professionalism®.

#### **Project Name: Family STEM Day**

**Overview:** Family STEM Day allows children, parents and grandparents to engage in meaningful exploration, conversation and cooperative learning surrounding science, technology, engineering and math activities. The program fosters Intergenerational engagement as well as curiosity and excitement about phenomena that exist in the world around us.

#### **Project Name: FLIPGRID FEVER!**

**Overview:** We've been using Flipgrid, a video response platform, this year to enhance our curriculum and feel the features of the pro account will take it to the next level and beyond.

#### **Project Name: Technology and PE**

**Overview:** Our school's PE would like to incorporate more technology into our program. With the safety padding on the walls, we need a place to projector a variety of PE related apps, demonstration videos and exercise videos. It is currently hard for the students to see on the matted walls.

**Project Name: Gym/Fitness Mats for Grades 1 through 8**

**Overview:** After many years of use, we need these mats to use in our classes for fitness, gymnastic and sports activities.

**Project Name: 3rd Grade Carnegie Hall Violin Program**

**Overview:** the past two years we have been accepted into the Carnegie Hall Link Up Program. Under the tutelage of a music teacher artists, our students have been able to perform in a concert in May at Carnegie Hall after a year of violin study and training in Carnegie Hall's methodology. Helpful link: <https://www.carnegiehall.org/Education/Educators/Link-Up>

**Project Name: Newscast Production 3rd Grade Library**

**Overview:**In looking to having a broader conception of library experiences, we are building in various programming. Among them is a newscast production led by a videographer and actor who together work in schools developing news shows. They take children through the process of research, scripting and communication of ideas and producing a final video product.

**Project Name: Hudson River Exploration**

**Overview:** Students in 1st and 2nd Grades, as part of their library exploration will be exposed to literature as it relates to the Hudson River and the life of rivers. They will also work with landscape painter on capturing visual portraits of the river after learning about the Hudson River School of painters. They will explore the ecology and Ecosystem of the river with the Urban Park Rangers and work with an engineer on building bridges with hands on materials.

**Project Name: Grow Torah**

**Overview:** GrowTorah develops educational Torah garden programs for Jewish schools and communal organizations. GrowTorah curates educational garden experiences through which participants explore relevant Jewish values and Torah lessons, and learn the fundamentals of gardening, farming and planting. The Torah lessons interwoven into the educational garden experiences inspire participants to navigate the complex relationships between humans, their fellow creatures, and the earth, and encourages participants to connect with these values in powerful and personally meaningful ways.

**Project Name: Hebrew Library**

**Overview:** As part of the program for the assimilation of the Hebrew language in early childhood, we use original Israeli literature in Hebrew to teach young children the language in a fun and enriching way. Our school places great importance on the teaching of Hebrew and

Jewish identity among its students. A rich library that will serve many years for students and teachers is essential.

**Project Name: Reaching All Readers, 4th Grade**

**Overview:** An enhanced classroom library would help our students become eager and more skilled as readers.

**Project Name: Manipulatives for Middle School Classes**

**Overview:** The use of manipulatives helps students hone their mathematical thinking skills. According to Stein and Bovalino (2001), "Manipulatives can be important tools in helping students to think and reason in more meaningful ways. By giving students concrete ways to compare and operate on quantities, such manipulatives as pattern blocks, tiles, and cubes can contribute to the development of well-grounded, interconnected understandings of mathematical ideas." To gain a deep understanding of mathematical ideas, students need to be able to integrate and connect a variety of concepts in many different ways. Clements (1999) calls this type of deep understanding "Integrated Concrete" knowledge. The effective use of manipulatives can help students connect ideas and integrate their knowledge so that they gain a deeper understanding of mathematical concepts. Over the summer, lessons will be written for each of the 6th, 7th and 8th grade teachers to facilitate the integration of the materials into the classroom.

**Examples of Proposals that were successfully funded by a Giving Circle**

**Yachad Collaboration** - \$1000 The 7th Grade participated in a two-part training where they were taught how to interact with children with special needs. They walked through exercises where they learned to empathize, have a greater understanding and developed the skills to accept peers with disabilities. These sessions were in preparation for the 7th Grade Yachad shabbaton that the entire grade participated in Westchester. Students were able to have a meaningful, ruach filled experience and were given valuable tools to ensure persons with diverse abilities have their rightful place within the Jewish community.

**Fine Arts Program in the Middle School** - \$1200 In the middle school, art and music become electives. During lunch time elective, the art room and faculty were available for mini sessions where various mediums of art were explored in a relaxed environment. This was an opportunity for our students to express themselves freely through art. Thirty students participated.

**Inter-grade Learning Initiative** - \$1200 7th Graders over the course of the 2017-2018 academic year have been visiting Kindergarten classes to buddy with the children and teach them about holidays (Tu B'shvat), Rosh Chodesh and Jewish tradition and customs related to these events.

7th Graders have taken immense pride, ownership and responsibility in sharing their knowledge through prepared interactive google lesson on their Ipads. The kindergarten children love having this time with the “big kids from the big building” and listen intently as they get this special attention.

**Intergenerational Day** - \$2500 During this interactive program, 5th grade grandparents and family members begin the morning in discussion with their children around ‘Then and Now’- sharing differences between the past and present. They then visit our Living Museum exhibit, which showcases family heirlooms and student writing. In the final part of the program, all participants have the opportunity to explore a wide range of workshops given by our grandparents and guests, reflecting their hobbies and hidden or not so hidden talents. Our GGC was proud to sponsor this event because of the powerful memories, significant connections and knowledge our students make through this experience.

**AVANT Stamp Testing: Pilot** -Funded anonymously by a member of the GP Giving Circle The Avant test has been instrumental not only in creating benchmarks for where our students are at, but also to assist teachers in designing next steps for students in advancing and enhancing the Hebrew curriculum and supporting our students. The first exam was administered to 3rd-6th grade. The test was administered a second time in February and 7th grade was included in this round.

**Operation Magic Carpet** - Funded anonymously by a member of the GP Giving Circle The 2 aleph bet rugs used in the 1st grade have been a wonderful addition to the classroom. It allows the Hebrew portion of the day to get off to a strong start, children are focused during Ma’Agal (circle time) as they all find their letters and settle into their places. Children are given another physical and visual tool that reinforces the identification and understanding of Hebrew letters, their placement and use.