

H.O.P.E. Grant – Application Detail

The goal of H.O.P.E.’s grant program is to enable supplementary financial support to Heyworth Elementary staff for the end benefit of student education/enrichment. The below questions should be completed to provide a more detailed description of the grant request. The application form should not exceed one typed page. Completed applications should be submitted along with the Grant Request Application Form to the H.O.P.E. mailbox (heyworthhope@gmail.com) at least 2 weeks prior to the H.O.P.E. review meeting. Completed applications will be made available to H.O.P.E. Membership prior to the review meeting and copies will be on hand at the meeting for additional review prior to voting.

1. Describe the proposed need/project/program and the objectives it would accomplish.

My project objective is to improve the learning environment in my classroom for my annual 9-week long rainforest unit. Every year I spend countless hours, money and resources ‘transforming’ my classroom into a rainforest. I have collected many materials over the past 14 years that I have been teaching this unit, but many of my supplies are falling apart. I have also used a lot of paper goods in the past to help decorate my room and I would like to use reusable products instead. This is much more eco-friendly (which is important when teaching about the rainforest!) and much more cost-efficient in the long run.

The transformation of my classroom is a highlight of my curriculum each year. The aesthetics of the classroom really set a fun learning tone for the end of the school year, a time where anyone is prone to start getting burned out! Students become engaged and enthusiastic about the project and learning in general when they enter this ‘new’ learning environment.

1. What is the estimated cost of the project/program? Please summarize and attach itemized list.

***The total estimated cost is $295.11.***

All of the following are for transforming the classroom into a rainforest. All products are reusable indefinitely.

**From Amazon.com**

Modern Warrior Camouflage Hunting and Tactical Net 12.5 feet x 5 feet: **$29.99 x 3=$89.97**

Green luau table skirt: **$11.60 x 5=$58.00**

Creative Teaching Press Water Drops Cut-outs (108 total) **=$10.17**

**Shipping is free** with my Amazon Prime membership.

**Total=$158.14**

**From Hobby Lobby (hobbylobby.com)**

Green Leaf Fabric=**$4.89 x 10=$48.90**

Green Raffia Bundle = **$2.99 x 2=$5.98**

Lime Green Fishing Net=**$4.99 x 2=$9.98**

Shipping=**$10.95**

**Total=75.81**

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From Ikea (ikea.com)

Green Leaf bed canopy **$14.99 x 3=$44.97**

Shipping and tax = $**16.19**

**Total=$61.16**

1. Who and how many would benefit from this project/program? What would be the impact on students/staff?

Third graders this year and in all of the years to come will benefit from this program. This is my 14th year teaching and I have taught over 300 students so far. Almost every previous student that I have run into mentions the rainforest unit as one of their favorite memories of 3rd grade, as well as a favorite elementary school memory in general. Throughout our unit we also invite younger grades into the room to perform a skit and songs for them. They get great excitement from entering our ‘other world’ as well.

In this day and age of frequent standardized testing, data-collecting, benchmarking, RtI-ing, etc., I really feel that a unique, outside of the box experience such as our rainforest unit is more important than ever in helping to keep the excitement and enthusiasm for learning alive and well in our schools.