

Maeck Foundation

“Support My School Program”

My Spectrum program at Sunnyside Elementary School incorporates a multi-aged approach to learning that encourages students to reach their highest level of achievement. Learning opportunities are structured to accommodate students' individual needs, interests, and learning styles. The students learn at their academic level, not their grade level. The curriculum is based on thematic units, which are open-ended and tailored to the needs of the students. With my guidance, the students understand the need for taking responsibility for their learning, set personal goals, and take pride in doing their best. One of the best ways children can learn concepts is by doing plays. These plays help history, science and social studies to leap out of the textbook and come alive. They connect art, speech, movement and music to master the curriculum. These plays require costumes and an easy way to make them is through designing T-shirts to represent their parts. The students love the T-shirts and they inspire them to do their best as well as have memories about the production. I would like to perform three plays next year:

- U.S. Geography is a musical to help them remember geographic terms as well as every capital and state.
- U.S. Presidents: Washington and Lincoln is a musical that help students learn the major contributions of the first sixteen presidents and the duties of the executive branch.
- Geology Rocks is a musical that helps children learn understand the earth and how it was made.

Children facilitate their own learning process by incorporating natural curiosity in participating in interactive hands-on activities. This plays help them to work together as a team and learn Idaho and district standards in a fun, exciting forum. This approach fosters a community in which each child gains a love for learning, enjoys working collaboratively, and sharing their gifts.

One of aspects I treasure most about this classroom is that I am able to watch children develop intellectually, emotionally, and socially. One year a first grader may struggle

with reading, and then two years later I watch that same child help teach another first grader how to read. Every day they grow a little more and overcome challenges through community support. I believe deeply that we cannot solve the challenges of our time unless we solve them together. Being a Spectrum teacher gives me hope that the world can overcome our problems because these kids help each other become better, they inspire each other to be passionate about learning and community building, and most importantly, they believe in each other. Working together to develop these plays fosters these concepts.

The materials I would need to incorporate these plays into my classroom are:

- Jetpress 12- This machine is ideal for ink-jet iron on transfers on to T-shirts.
\$279.00
- T-shirt transfers (100 sheets)
111.00
- Epson Printer (The school printers will not do the transfers)
70.00
- Ink Cartridges
158.00
- T-shirts (75)
200.00
- Flip Camera (This is an instant way for them to see their performance and improve their speaking skills.)
199.00

Total cost \$1000.16

(Half of the costs are for equipment that will be used for many years.)

Thank you so much for your consideration on this project. I am attached some pictures of plays we have done in the past. These plays have made learning inspirational for the children.

Sincerely,

Michelle Ball

