

WHS PFA GRANTS PROGRAM 2017-18

Mission and Criteria for Review

The mission of the PFA Grants program is to support teachers, organizations, and leaders who take the initiative to challenge, reach or support Winchester High School students in creative and engaging ways, but who need supplemental funding to realize their goals. The Winchester PFA Grants program provides financial support, in the form of grants, for academic supplies, equipment, curriculum or enrichment expenditures not otherwise covered by the school budget. Any requests for technology will be reviewed with the District to ensure that the technology is consistent with District policy and goals and to ensure equity across the District. For supplies and equipment to be eligible for consideration, they must either enhance the regular curriculum or represent one-time purchases that are part of a pilot or can be used over a span of years. It is the PFA's view that any supplies and equipment needed annually should be covered by the school budget. The PFA Grants program does not typically fund regular recurring operating expenses, field trips or transportation to events, although the PFA will consider field trips for students who have a unique need and who might otherwise be underserved, and will consider funding an enrichment component of a trip, such as a workshop.

In 2016-17, the PFA awarded over \$18,000 in grants, accounting for more than half of the money raised by the Association's Direct Appeal program. The grants covered a wide variety of initiatives from the classroom to after-school activities. We have a number of grants we fund regularly, and each year we look forward to new ideas and programs that engage and motivate teachers and students. A list of grants awarded last year is available on the PFA website at whspfa.org.

Each year, we receive requests from teachers and organizations through a grant application process. These applications are reviewed and prioritized by the Grants Co-Chairs with the PFA Executive Committee and the WHS Administration. A final list of recommendations is then presented for approval to the membership.

Because the grant requests are so varied, we assess them qualitatively. The following are an example of some of the factors we take into consideration when prioritizing grant requests, listed in no particular order:

- Should this request be referred to a different funding source, and if so which one(s)?
- Does it encourage innovation, or inspire a passionate teacher or champion?
- What is the expense relative to the number of students it reaches?
- Does it reach targeted students who have a unique need and who might otherwise be underserved?
- Does the request provide a unique opportunity for students?
- Does it make sense to fund part of the request to get something off the ground or maintain momentum?
- Has the teacher/staff member provided evidence of due diligence in researching costs, etc.?
- Does the request address a classroom need that if left unmet would materially hinder students' ability to learn the subject, such as art supplies or other classroom materials?

- Is the request directed towards students who may be completing their formal education at the high school level and therefore need particular, vital skills supported before entering the workforce?
- Does this particular request help balance the PFA's support of either diverse extra-curricular activities or wide-ranging curriculum initiatives across departments?