

PRIME TIME
Pre-QRS Program Supports Application

School District of Palm Beach County
Department of Safe Schools
1790 NW Spanish River Blvd.
Boca Raton, FL 33431
561.982.0925 FAX 561.982.0943
Olivia Rogers, Manager, Out-of-School Programs
Beth A. Lefler, Service Learning Coordinator
William King, Project Director, The Center for Art & Media Literacy

Amount Requesting: \$50,000/year for 3 years

Purpose of Fund Request

This is a three year multi-tiered project with each year building upon the previous one. The project will bring together community middle school after school students in the eastern and western communities to produce a quarterly teen newspaper with original writing and photography that will be distributed throughout Palm Beach County after-school programs. The purpose of the newspaper is to enhance the visual arts, graphic design, creative writing, and critical thinking capacity of middle school youth in the Riviera Beach area, Belle Glade, and Pahokee. The newspaper will encourage communication between the eastern and western community middle school after-school sites.

Project Scope

The Project Director will work with ten community middle school after-school programs in which the participating youth (ten from each site) will be chosen from five community middle school after-school programs in the Riviera Beach area and five from Belle Glade and Pahokee. The Project Director will work with selected staff and youth from each of the ten program sites for a six to eight month training period. During this time, they will meet once a week for two hours. Each site will then be responsible for producing one newspaper article along with accompanying photographs for publication every two months. After that, each of the ten sites will collaborate to create one two-page standard sized newspaper that will be printed and distributed every three months. Upon completion of the first newspaper, two selected youth will create a virtual web-based replication of the newspaper in print. During the project, youth will keep a notebook/journal of their experiences in developing a newspaper and use the Service Learning Passport for Life for additional reflection and documentation of service hours. A solid partnership with the Palm Beach Post will help to ensure quality internships,

experiences, and opportunities for participating students. It is our hope that the printing costs and newspaper inserts can be negotiated as the project develops and be equitable for all parties.

Project Outcomes

The goal of the multi-cultural teen newspaper is to change adolescents from passive consumers of visual information to active viewers and creators of their own teen newspaper. The participants will learn to ask questions about what they see, hear and read, as a means of empowering them to make wise and informed decisions in life.

Youth will:

- Produce eight to ten two-page standard sized newspapers in three years.
- Complete a sketchbook/journal that will document how each has become actively engaged in authentic, real-world tasks (related to real-world problems) that take learning beyond the school and into the community.
- Set tangible goals for a period of three years.
- Create a virtual web-based replication of newspaper.
- Conduct interviews with friends, family, community leaders and teachers.
- Develop the skills necessary for operating a digital camera, creative writing, and publishing a newspaper.
- Have the opportunity to visit, and intern at the Palm Beach Post newspaper.
- Use the Service Learning Passport for Life for additional reflection and documentation of community service hours.

The project will increase the capacity of community middle school after-school programs by generating excitement and engagement among the youth as they produce an actual newspaper and website, and develop a sense of ownership.

Role of Project Director

Complete supervision of each individual community middle school after school program site to include actual production and development of a print newspaper and virtual web-based newspaper; initiation of plan and contacts for efficient distribution of newspaper throughout the county; arrange for internships and mentoring within the newspaper profession; and collaborate with other community resources to expand program with additional funding so that additional sites may be served.

Number of Youth: 100 (10 participants from each of ten sites) Grades: 6-8

Role of Service Learning Coordinator

The Service Learning Coordinator at the Department of Safe Schools will be responsible for managing all project funds; creation of instruction manual; editing

of newspaper; and performing necessary data entry practices to ensure accurate attendance detail; and the documentation of service hours provided by students.

Items Requested from the Prime Time Lending Library

2 Nikon D70 digital cameras

10 Fuji 3100 digital cameras

10 memory card readers

Proposed Budget

Project Director (per year) \$40,000

Service Learning Coordinator (per year) \$10,000

TOTAL \$50,000

The staff from the Department of Safe Schools along with The Center for Art & Media Literacy (William King), will be seeking additional funding to support this project.

Year 1	The initial six to eight months of this 36 month project will be dedicated to project selection; initial exposure and building of student familiarity with necessary software, hardware, and additional skills necessary to publish a newspaper article with accompanying photographs; as well as repeated exposure, teaching and re-teaching of the mechanics of writing. The second half of the first year will be devoted to the actual culmination of articles from all involved sites and the publication of the first teen newspaper. Each site will be responsible for one 100-word article accompanied by five photographs detailing their community middle school after school experience. Once the first newspaper has been created, a team of two students will replicate the final product to create a virtual web-based newspaper.
Year 2	During the second year of this project students will select article topics, develop an overall plan and timeline for managing their newspaper responsibilities; assign an equitable division of labor and a research protocol. After initial planning, articles and accompanying photographs will be solicited from each of the ten community sites at a greater frequency as the teen newspaper will be printed and distributed once every three months. The virtual web-based newspaper will be updated to highlight the best articles throughout the year. All participants will have the opportunity to visit the Palm Beach Post and learn about the reality of the newspaper industry and field.
Year 3	During the third year of this project the teen newspaper will continue to be published every three months as well as become a special insert in the Palm Beach Post aimed at middle school age youth, their concerns, and experiences. In addition, selected youth will intern at the Palm Beach Post, and interview and shadow a newspaper professional of their choice. The virtual web-based newspaper will continue to be updated to highlight the best articles throughout the year.