

Grants to Teachers Application

Cover Page

Date: 2/14/05

Grant Title: Thomas Playground Improvements


Grant Applicant: Connie Merriman

School: Thomas Elementary School

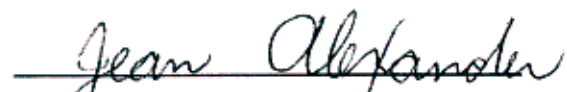
Grade Level: 4 - 6

Content Area: Physical Education

Total Dollar Amount Requested: \$3909.60



Signature of Grant Applicant



Signature of Building Principal



Holdenville Education Foundation, Inc.
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Do Not Write in this Box
HEF Staff Only

Grants to Teachers Application Form

Date: 2/09/05

Grant Title: Thomas Playground Improvements

School: Thomas Elementary

Grade Level: 4 - 6

Content Area: Physical Fitness

Dollar Amount Requested: \$3909.60

It is with great need that I am writing this grant to help improve Thomas Elementary's existing playground. At this time, our playground has little for our students to do while out for morning and lunch recess. Swings are broken and other equipment is in need of safety gravel or painting. For most of our students, the playground is the only outside activity time in their day. At this time Oklahoma is ranked fourth in the Nation for adolescent obesity. It is proven that healthy students perform better, not only in the classroom, but on standardized tests. It is time to give our kids an incentive to play, to live healthier, and exercise. I ask the HEF to help by contributing three thousand, nine hundred nine dollars and sixty cents. This money will help restore our playground into a place our students can use and enjoy. In a time of Playstations and DVDs, we must teach and encourage our children to exercise again. I am ready and willing to contribute my time to this wonderful project which will benefit so many students today and in the years to follow. The benefits far outweigh the cost. Thank you for your time and consideration.

1. - What is the major need this project addresses?

Small changes to our playground can provide incentive for our young people to exercise and spend time socially interacting in a positive and healthy way. At this time, Thomas students are offered very little Physical Education instruction. Our students are 9 to 13 years of age. This is a significant time where their bodies are rapidly changing and growing. Exercise should be a daily part of their lives and should be encouraged in any way possible. By creating a more age appropriate atmosphere on our school playground, we can help our young people grow to be healthier and more productive in the classroom and in our community. Let's address the growing problem of obesity in our schools by providing a playground that is both useful and beautiful to our young adolescents.

2. - Describe your project. (Include your objectives, Materials needed, methods you will use, etc.)

The objective for this project is to create a more positive, appropriate atmosphere that will encourage physical activity for the students of Thomas Elementary School. It will provide new swings, paint, and a new smaller piece of equipment that will encourage our students to be more active. It will provide an incentive for students to exercise and socially interact with each other. A positive atmosphere will always lead to positive behavior, therefore reducing discipline problems as well. I will incorporate the new with the old. We will bring back the usefulness of the basketball goals by installing new galvanized nets. New stronger swings will replace the old broken swings that are there now. A new 10 foot monorail will be installed. The monorail is a piece of equipment designed for building upper body strength. It meets all safety standards set forth by the state. Existing tether poles and monkey bars will be painted to brighten and protect them. Pea gravel will be put down under the new monorail and some of the existing equipment to ensure safety. This great project can improve the quality of life for Thomas Elementary Students today and for so many more in the Future.

Resource Material Requested

See next page

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Materials required:

1. **Swings** for existing Frame 6 @ \$90.00 = \$540.00
2. **Monorail** - (new piece of equipment designed for 9 to 12 years) 1 @ \$2350.00
3. **Cement** - (for installation) 10 @ \$1.96 = \$19.60
4. **Paint** for old equipment - 8 gallons @ \$23.00 = 184.00
5. **Pea gravel** - 100 bags @ \$2.06 = \$206.00 * All equipment must be installed with impact absorbing materials
6. **4 new Heavy Duty Chain Nets** for Basketball goal 4 @ \$20.00 = \$80.00
7. **Installation** costs of new equipment - Estimated 20 hours = \$500.00
8. **Shipping and Handling**- Shipping of monorail , swings, and nets = \$30.00

*Volunteers from Holdenville 4-H and many parents will do painting and help prepare the areas for new equipment.

3. Give a time of schedule of events?

This project will be begin as soon as funding is available. Equipment will be ordered from PLAYWORLD SYSTEMS in May. Upon receipt, the new chain nets will be installed, the existing swing frame will be painted and the new swings will be put up immediately. Depending upon the weather, the new monorail will take one to two weeks in June to dig up and prepare the ground for installation. Once the ground has been prepared, assembly of the monorail should take approximately 10 hours and the posts will be cemented. Final installation should be completed and the pea gravel put down the following day. The rest of the equipment will be painted during a community service project for the Holdenville Key Club and the Holdenville 4-H Club. This project will be completed by the end of July 2005.

4. Approximately how many students will be affected by this project, both directly and indirectly?

The impact of this project is very perpetual, affecting not only today's students, but the many generations to follow. Thomas Elementary has approximately 234 students enrolled. Each student will benefit from the exercise and physical activities this improved playground will offer. It will also serve a countless number of students in the future. The small improvements will also affect the many teachers who are always working to keep students busy and out of trouble. The playground will be a place for healthy social interaction.

5. How will you determine whether your objectives have been achieved and whether your project is successful?

This project will be assessed by the teachers and staff. It will be deemed successful if I have truly created an incentive for students to exercise more on our playground. The level of activity on the playground will increase and the student's usage of the new equipment will be determined by teachers' observation. It is a project that cannot be evaluated in a traditional paper and pencil assessment but more from a visual and hands on assessment.