



Marshall Elementary Parent-Teacher Organization
Gifted Academy at Thurgood Marshall Elementary
4704 N Rockton Ave
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Upcoming Application Deadlines:

Trimester #1 – Closed

Trimester #2 – February 14, 2020

Trimester #3 – April 1, 2020

Introduction

The Marshall Elementary Parent-Teacher Organization aims to increase awareness of school policy, direction, goals, and procedures in order to improve teacher, parent, and student communication. We sponsor positive programs that include teachers, parents, and students for the purpose of establishing closer relationships between home and school. Overall, we promote the authenticity of the Gifted Academy at Thurgood Marshall Elementary by adhering to the integrity of the gifted program's philosophies.

The Marshall Elementary Parent-Teacher Organization is a non-profit organization registered in the State of Illinois. As such, money raised by the Marshall Elementary PTO is used to further its charitable mission to provide materials and services for the academic enrichment of the Gifted Academy at Thurgood Marshall Elementary and to build community for its families. The PTO Grant Programs provide an opportunity for members of the Marshall Elementary community to guide spending in these fundamental areas.

The Marshall Elementary Parent-Teacher Organization is 100% volunteer run and is tax-exempt under the Internal Revenue Code section 501(c)(3).

Grant Award Types

To encourage participation in the PTO Grant Programs and to support the development of creative, collaborative and intentional spending on behalf of the Gifted Academy at Thurgood Marshall Elementary, the following grant award types are available:

Purple Horseshoe Award

This award (up to \$1000) will be granted to projects or programs that promote the overall mission of the Gifted Academy at Thurgood Marshall Elementary, especially as symbolized in the school motto, "We are the Marshall Elementary family, who accept and respect each other while striving for success with integrity."

Christa McAuliffe Innovation Award

This award (up to \$1000) will be granted to projects or programs that promote the implementation of new ideas or feature new methods, especially in the incorporation of STEM educational objectives. This award honors the legacy of Sharon Christa McAuliffe who, in 1985, was selected from more than 11,000 applicants to participate in the NASA Teacher in Space Project and was scheduled to become the first teacher in space. Unfortunately, she was among the seven-member crew lost when the Space Shuttle *Challenger* exploded after launch on January 28, 1986.

Emergency Fund

This small award (up to \$250) will be granted to projects or programs designed to meet significant emergent or immediate needs of members of the Marshall Elementary community. Funding requests for this award will be considered off-cycle and as needed. To maintain the charitable mission of the Marshall Elementary PTO, this small award is most likely to be funded when it benefits a considerable portion of the Marshall Elementary community instead of a single individual or family.

Eligibility for Funding

All teachers and staff at the Gifted Academy at Thurgood Marshall Elementary are eligible to apply for PTO Grant Programs. Teachers and staff may apply individually or collaboratively.

Parents or guardians of currently enrolled students are eligible to apply for PTO Grant Programs only if collaborating with a teacher or staff member at the Gifted Academy at Thurgood Marshall Elementary.

All proposed grant projects or programs must directly impact the Gifted Academy at Thurgood Marshall Elementary and must receive approval by the building principal before being considered for funding.

Budget and Timeline Considerations

Funding requests made to the PTO Grant Programs will be considered on a cycle of once per trimester when school is in session (except for the Emergency Fund, which is accessible at any time when school is in session). PTO Grant Programs application deadlines will be made available on the Marshall Elementary PTO events calendar. Funding availability is contingent on funds raised successfully via the Marshall Elementary PTO fundraising campaigns. Funding limits through the PTO Grant Programs will be determined annually through normal PTO budget approval processes and refined as needed by the appropriate PTO Grant Programs committee.

Funding Strategies

The PTO Grant Programs are designed to allow for members of the Marshall Elementary community to guide spending that ultimately serves the Marshall Elementary community. In an ideal situation, the PTO Grant Programs committee will have the ability to fund all applications submitted each cycle. All ideas are welcome and will be respectfully considered.

- Strong funding requests will benefit a considerable portion of the Marshall Elementary community.
- Funding requests submitted each cycle will be considered in tandem to allow decisions to be based on the breadth of impact and/or the fit of the funding request to the specific award indicated on the application.
- Applicants are not restricted from applying in future grant cycles even when following an inability to fund a previous funding request.
- Funding decisions and determination of award amounts will consider funds, materials and services made available through and provided by the Rockford Public School District.

Grant Terms and Conditions

- Durable goods purchased with PTO Grant Programs funds are considered property of the Gifted Academy at Thurgood Marshall Elementary.
- Grant awards will be disbursed directly to vendors (as invoiced or purchased directly) or as a reimbursement to grant recipients (as indicated by submitted receipts for purchases made after grant notification unless otherwise coordinated).
- The Marshall Elementary PTO is not required to pay sales tax in the State of Illinois for purchases that further its charitable purpose. Grant recipients are expected to coordinate with the Marshall Elementary PTO in making reasonable accommodations to follow vendors' processes for sales tax exemption.

Grant Award Expectations

All grant applicants will be notified of funding decisions by email at the contact address indicated on the application. Applicants chosen to receive a grant will be asked to enter a general agreement upon acceptance of the grant related to impact measurement and reporting, responsible variations in grant spending, and procedures for unspent monies. Applicants are encouraged to contact the Marshall Elementary PTO if a project or timeline has significantly changed while waiting for a funding decision.

Primary Applicant Name _____

Thurgood Marshall Elementary Position _____

Preferred Phone Number _____ Phone type (check one) Work Cell Other

Preferred Email Address _____

Additional Applicants / Collaborators:

Name _____ TME Position / Affiliation _____

Name _____ TME Position / Affiliation _____

Name _____ TME Position / Affiliation _____

For which award should this request be considered? (check one)
 Purple Horseshow Award (up to \$1000)
 Christa McAuliffe Innovation Award (up to \$1000)
 Emergency Fund (up to \$250)

Amount Requested \$ _____

Please provide a description of the proposed project/program. As appropriate, be sure to highlight uniqueness of the project/program (collaborative effort, parental involvement, reinstatement of previous project/program, uniqueness of concept, unavailability of RPS 205 funds, etc.) in order to inform committee decisions. Feel free to attach additional information if space is needed.

Describe the impact this proposed project/program will have on the Marshall Elementary community. For instance, highlight the number of students or families involved, which grades are included, critical need to meet, or the ability to replicate program in future years.

Please provide a timeline for the proposed project/program in the space below. If necessary, make clear distinctions between when funds need to be received and spent versus when program/project would be implemented.

Please complete the back side of this application before submission to building principal.

Please provide a budget below to illustrate the funding needed to cover the **full** project/program. Highlight which costs would be covered by the award and which, if any, would be covered by RPS 205 or other sources. Feel free to attach additional documentation otherwise (such as a printed online shopping cart), but please take a moment to highlight anticipated funding sources as described above.

	General description of item or service to be purchased	Anticipated cost	% cost to be covered by award	% cost to be covered by RPS 205	% cost to be covered by other sources
1					
2					
3					
4					
5					

Feel free to provide any additional information about pending or anticipated financial support for the proposed project/program here. If you envision repeating the project/program in future trimesters or years, please describe how you anticipate future implementation to be sustained. To be certain, PTO Grant recipients are not restricted from applying for funds in future trimester or years.

Please submit completed application together with any additional documentation to building principal by the published deadline for consideration.

For Building Principal Use Only

Please check the following affirmations where appropriate

- To the best of my knowledge, I affirm that this proposed project/program falls within allowable RPS 205 policy and curriculum guidelines, and within those of other relevant local, state, or federal agencies.
- To the best of knowledge, RPS 205 funding is available to cover or assist in funding this proposed project/program.
- (optional) Based on current initiatives in the Gifted Academy, I **strongly recommend** the funding and implementation of this proposed project/program.

Please sign and date before submitting application to the Marshall Elementary PTO.

Signature:

Date:
