Worcester Educational Development Foundation

CULTURE AND THE ARTS | HEALTH AND WELLNESS | SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY | COLLEGE READINESS

Celebrating 11 Years of Helping Students and Teachers Thrive

(A) Application Information:

1. Project Title: **Visual Thinking Strategies (VTS) for WPS Art Teachers**
2. Amount Requested (up to $ 500): $465
3. Applicant Information:

Contact Person: Kim Marshall
Principal: Patricia Padilla/ **All WPS Schools (51 Schools)**
School: Woodland Academy/ **All WPS Schools (51 Schools)**
Address: 93 Woodland Street Worcester, MA 01610
Best phone # : 508-769-5896

(B) Application Questions – Number and answer each question:

1. What do you propose to do and what needs are you addressing?

Each year the WEDF funds a fourth grade field trip to the Worcester Art Museum. This is a wonderful opportunity for every fourth grader in the district to experience the art museum! WPS art teachers are very excited for this opportunity for each student but many teachers lack full resources to make this trip as successful as it could be. "VTS cultivates an evolving, global community of practitioners in schools, museums and beyond." The docents at the museum are trained in VTS. We need the support of WEDF to bridge the gap between the docents and the art teachers. Funding this VTS project would not only allow every elementary art teacher in the district to their own their subscription for 1 year, but allow every art teacher K-12 recieve a subscription. At the heart of VTS is "making museum education programs more effective," by asking 3 questions: *What is going on in this picture? What makes you say? What more can we find?"* This subscription would allow art teachers to dig deeper into artworks before they arrive at the museum. Each art teacher would receive the resources needed to make each 4th grader in WPS the strategies necessary to make the WEDF funded field a better an even more powerful experience. Giving each 4th grader a more unique experience using VTS in schools would allow a much deeper experience on the field trip. The subscription includes:

Image curriculum for pre-kindergarten through Grade Eight

Additional image sets, courtesy of our museum partners
A comprehensive toolbox with resources for facilitators in all settings. This includes VTS elements and environment, printable classroom materials, student assessments, facilitator reflection, peer-to peer image sets, VTS in action, and more.
Research, guides, and videos
A showcase of VTS applications beyond visual art

2. How will you carry out your plan?

The group subscription will be purchased and distributed to staff. Each staff member will then have unlimited resources to begin their self directed training of the VTS technique! This is a wonderful way for each teacher to gain more knowledge about how to educate each 4th grader on how to make the most of their field trip to the art museum.

3. How will your project or program advance student learning?

Student learning will be advanced in the art classroom as well as the field trip to the museum, as well as a lifelong appreciation for the arts

4. Which curriculum standards are addressed? Be specific.

VA:Re.7.2.4a: Analyze components in visual imagery that convey messages.

VA:Re8.1.4a: Interpret art by referring to contextual information and analyzing relevant subject matter, characteristics of form, and use of media.

5. How is your plan different or innovative?

This plan is exactly not only what the WPS art teachers need but exactly what the 4th graders need to be more present at the Worcester Art Museum. By approving this grant art teachers would, for the first time have unlimited VTS resources at their fingertips. Students will be able to continue to carry with them their experience from the art museum in grades 5-12, and beyond, as they will be able to use the skills time and time again their knowledge of VTS and become experts in analyzing artworks.

6. How many students will benefit from this mini grant this year?

1,918 4th grade students would be directly affected by these funds. On larger scale the entire WPS district of 25,527 students would be indirectly affected in their art classrooms ready to visit a museum.

7. Evaluation: How will you know if you are successful? Do you expect to see improvement on a pre- and post-test, through observations or student work, etc.?

The WEDF has provided this wonderful experience for 4th graders for over 5 years. This would be the start of new experience to enhance the experience for the students. Art teachers would be able to measure success at the museum seeing the enhanced engagement and cuorosity from each student.

8. Budget – Please provide a line item budget:

Item(s) May include materials, fees, transportation, etc.	Cost
Visual Thinking Strategies Subscription (up to 50 teachers)	$465