

Grants 4 Teachers Application

Deale Elementary School Wants the Cube

Care. Connect. Contribute. Community Foundation of Anne Arundel County

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Submitted by: Ward Vernon Brumfield
wbrumfield@aacps.org

Principal: John Barzal
jbarzal@aacps.org

Deale Elementary School
759 Masons Beach Road
Deale MD 20751

Deale Elementary School Wants the Cube!

Personal Inspiration

Part of my philosophy is to motivate and inspire students each day they come to Physical Education. However, this adventure began last school year when one of my students; J.P., inspired me to do something I could not do at his age. J.P. has a unique talent for solving the Rubik's cube. Because of J.P., Rubik's cubes were the "thing" before anyone ever heard of a fidget spinner. Coincidentally, my own daughter brought home a cube, but it sat untouched on the counter. My curiosity got the better of me so I picked it up at age 42 and followed a video that I found on the internet and learned to solve the cube. I guess you can say it took me 32 years to solve the cube other than peeling and replacing the stickers. I have reached out to J.P. and shared with him that he has inspired me to learn to solve the cube, but now I want to do more. I want to pass along the joy of achievement to my students who are interested in learning how to solve the cube by starting an afterschool club.

Project Overview

The plan is to begin an afterschool club that would teach students a sequential progression to solving the Rubik's Cube using the "Beginner's Method". As I researched this idea; I have discovered that the Rubik's Cube has its own STEM approved curriculum. Elementary and middle schools are using this program to foster perseverance, critical thinking, grit and much more. As the Physical Education teacher, I have coordinated several clubs at my school and each has taught the values of collaboration, sportsmanship, teamwork and leadership. I believe these values and so many others can be fostered in a gentle and caring environment where students can be frustrated, challenged, engaged, motivated and victorious! I believe I can get them to share the same joy of accomplishment solving the cube that I feel each time I solve it.

Project Objective

The goals are to provide a motivating and engaging activity that gets kids excited for learning math concepts. The Rubik's cube provides a supplemental platform for students to manipulate a visual and tactile resource. Students will learn the various stages of solving the cube by following directions, understanding sequential cube notations, and application using a hands-on approach. As student's gain confidence with solving the cube, our club can hold contests to solve various stages of the cube and not limited to solving the entire cube. Parents will also be welcome and encouraged to participate in our club to promote healthy relationships by learning a new skill together.

Target Population

Grades 4 & 5

Summation

In my own experiences as teacher, high school coach and coordinator of after school clubs, I have seen kids with many different backgrounds, social and physical challenges become part of team. I have seen the powers of sport and common interest bring students together to strengthen the bonds of friendship. As years have gone by and former students come back and visit, they often ask "Do you still do...x,y,&z?" These are the stories and memories that I wish to create for my students. The lasting memories that they will take with them and hold far beyond their elementary years. Let's also not forget the skills and values they also learn and take with them too. I want to add "Look Mom, I can solve the Rubik's cube!" to my legacy. With your support, I know I can do it!