Helena Education Foundation

# Great Ideas Grant Program

**2014-15 Application**

### **APPLICATION SUMMARY PAGE**

**Please complete responses to all questions.**

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Music Ace Maestro**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** Funds Requested **$\_\_\_\_\_\_**541.62**\_\_\_\_**

Project Title (This name will be used in publicity so be creative!)

Number of Students to be served: \_178\_\_\_\_\_\_Grade Level(s): 3, 4 & 5\_\_\_\_\_

Number of Schools to be served: \_\_\_1\_\_\_\_

Type of Grant: \_\_\_\_X\_\_\_\_ Individual (funded up to $1000)

 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (funded up to $3000)

 (ALL applicants must sign signature page.)

Subject(s) affected by this project::

\_\_\_X\_\_ Arts \_\_\_\_\_ Math \_\_\_\_\_ Science \_\_\_\_\_ Speech

\_\_\_\_\_ Foreign Language \_\_\_\_\_ Social Studies \_\_\_\_\_ Library \_\_\_\_PE/Health

\_\_\_\_\_ Special Education \_\_\_\_\_ Business \_\_\_\_\_ Reading/Language Arts

\_\_\_\_\_ Career/Technical \_\_\_\_\_ Counseling & Guidance

\_\_\_X\_\_ Other: Music Theory

Using ONLY the space below, please provide a summary of the program in 50 words or fewer. We will be using your summary for publicity about the grant recipients, so please try to explain the purpose, proposed impact and how our project meets our creativity and collaboration goals.

Music Ace Maestro will give students the opportunity to study music theory at their own pace using a computer program. The program enables them to evaluate, record and view progress of each lesson. Lessons skills prepare the student for success in required middle school music courses.

**Introduction**

Music Ace Maestro will provide individualized music instruction to each 3rd, 4th and

5th grade student. The Music Ace Maestro program reinforces skills, which are

required by the Helena Public Schools middle school music curriculum. Therefore

our students will leave elementary school well prepared for Middle School.

The program contains enough material for over 2 years of instruction and

assessments. An added benefit is the use of computer technology to study music.

**Section1: Justification**

**A. Project Need:** We have 5 unused HP Mini’s which were generously set aside for

the music program at our school. The mini computers were set aside for use in music by the principal and a staff member. We have not been able to use the computers because we do not have the Music Ace Maestro program.

There is not sufficient funding in the music budget to purchase the program.

I have used Music Ace for 7 years at other Helena Public School District elementary

schools with much success. Prior to teaching in Helena I spent close to 2 decades

teaching band, orchestra and choir in large school districts in another state.

Primarily, I taught instrumental music in the 5th -8th grades. I feel that experience

equipped me to understand what our students need to know in transition to

 their required district middle school music classes.

**B. Purpose of Project:** The project willprovide students new opportunities to

receive free individualized instruction during music class which cannot be provided

by hiring more district personnel.

**Section 2: Relevance to Great Ideas Grants Program Goals**

**A. Creativity:** Each child who takes a turn on Music Ace Maestro retreats into

their own musical environment. A good set of headphones seal out the sound of

the class. Maestro Max guides students through each lesson. Maestro Max is an

delightful animated figure that interacts with the students. He provides instructions

and feedback for each lesson objective. He is dressed in a tuxedo with a red bow tie

and tennis shoes. He has grey hair and a bushy mustache. His conductors baton is

ever in hand. He encourage students with his distinct German accent. He says things

like, “That’s right! You are a Genius! When a student chooses the wrong solution

Maestro Max encourages them to try again. There is a Doodle Pad feature for

composing music. Students can use Doodle Pad to create their own musical

compositions.

The note heads are also animated and quite colorful. With a correct response the

note heads flash a bright smile showing their pearly whites. If the student errs,

the note head pops like a tiny balloon emitting a comical sound. Often this is

greeted with a chuckle from the student. It seems to encourage them to try again.

**B. Extension of student learning:** Each lesson starts withan excerpt of a

classical piece of music. Bach, Mozart and other composers are featured. As the

music plays Maestro Max either looks on or conducts. The animated notes move all

over the staff in a choreographed transcription of the music. I feel that this music

encourages our students to appreciate, seek out and listen to classical music on their

own audio devices. They also tell me when recognize a piece of music in a movie or

a video game. Just last week a 4th grade student correctly named a note on the

treble staff during a class room activity to identify notes. He asked me,

“Do you know why I know the answer?”

I responded, “No, can you tell me?”

He said, “I learned at the computer doing *Music Ace*!”

That motivated me to write this grant in hope of making use of the mini-computers

 which were made available to music by the generosity of our school staff and

administration. Kids learn when interacting with Music Ace Maestro.

**C. Collaboration:** I will not be collaborating with other educators at my school.

However, I will discuss the use of the project with other district music educators as

part of our *Professional Learning Community* meetings. These discussions will also

involve middle school and high school music educators.

**D. Availability of other funding:** There is no available funding. Our music

budget of $300 is divided between two music instructor. The total

yearly budget is nearly exhausted. Other instructional materials and electrical plug

strips were purchased to use with our electronic keyboards for class instruction.

These plug strips/surge protectors were purchased to meet the fire code.

The computers that I will use with the Music Ace Maestro program were provided

by our school.

**Section 3: Project Description**

**A. Design:** I will oversee student participation and monitor their progress.

Studentsmark a chart to indicate each completed lesson. Lessons occur in class

by rotation. Students take turns on the computer during their bi-weekly music time.

The beauty of this is that large group instruction continues in class. Students

use Music Ace Maestro to enrich and reinforce class instruction at their own pace.

**B. Budget:**  $541.62 Please see the attached budget sheet for details. This is a

barebones proposal which allows us to use district resources to enhance our

student learning. The headphones are offered at a promotional price. (59% off

MRSP)

**Section 4: Evaluation, Dissemination and Future Plans**

**A. Evaluation:** The benchmarks are listed in the program. Each lesson clearly

states the objective. Maestro Max narrates and instructs. The assessments are

designed in game form. Upon completion, the game score is flashed on the screen.

There are printouts in the educator version, which may be used as whole class

lessons, assignments or assessments. The new program version can interact with

various data bases. Each student may log in. Using the program menu each student

and the teacher can view an individual progress chart on the computer.

**B. Dissemination:** Information may be shared using various electronic data

bases and email communication. We also can share information at our music PLC

meetings. Other district music educators use the Music Ace program here in Helena.

**C. Future Plans:** I will use the program year after year. The program has served

In my music program at my other school site for the past 7 school years, I will

explore new uses for the program in class. Such as using the Doodle Pad feature to

aid students in creating music compositions. Compositions can be played back on

the computer or through a midi device such as a keyboard

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**BUDGET FORM**

**2014-15 Application**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Budget Item** | **Vendor** | **Unit Cost** | **Shipping** | **Qty** | **Total Cost** |
| 1. | Music Ace Maestro Educator Version Lab Pack – 5 seats | Harmonic Vision | $440 | $!0 | 1 | $450 |
| 2. | Pack of 10 3068A Califone Switchable Stereo/Mono HeadphonesSale Price | School Outfitters.com | $8 | $11.62 | 10 | $91.62 |
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 **Total 541.62**