**Thurgood Marshall PTA Opportunity Grant**

**Information Sheet and Application**

**What is a Thurgood Marshall PTA Opportunity Grant?**

The Thurgood Marshall Elementary School PTA includes "Opportunity Grant" funds in its annual budget to support innovative initiatives that enrich the students’ educational experience. Grants are awarded for a wide variety of initiatives. Past awards have supported arts enrichment, appearances or residencies by outside experts, purchase of technology, equipment, furnishings or books to support learning, teacher training or collaboration opportunities, parent engagement in the education of their children, garden projects, or special field trips or events. The nature of the project is limited only by the imagination of the grant applicants. In a typical year, awards range from $250-$1,000.

**Rules**

1. To seek an Opportunity Grant, teachers must submit the attached application to the PTA Board.
2. Grants must be used to enrich the educational experience of children at Thurgood Marshall.
3. All grant applications must be sponsored by a Thurgood Marshall teacher or staff member. Initiatives impacting classroom time and school resources require the support of the classroom teacher and school principal.
4. Parents with a grant idea may team with a teacher sponsor to apply.
5. Teachers may team together to apply.
6. While teachers may apply for more than one grant over the course of the school year, preference will be given to teachers who have not yet been awarded a grant.
7. Priority will be given to applications that address a need not already being met by existing district, school or PTA funds.
8. There is no deadline. The PTA Board will consider applications so long as funds remain in the Opportunity Grant budget. A decision normally will be communicated no later than a week after the next monthly meeting of the Board.
9. Questions? Ask the PTA President(s), at pta@tmlink.org. While we cannot extensively coach you on your application, we can provide guidance. The application is meant to be simple.

**How does the “Opportunity Grant” differ from the PTA “Classroom Grant”?**

**A Thurgood Marshall PTA Classroom Grant** requires no application and is automatically awarded at the beginning of the school year to each teacher and specialist to be used at his or her discretion to enrich the educational experience of children at our school. The amount is set in the annual PTA budget (and is larger for teacher/staff members in their first year at TM). Teachers may submit receipts for reimbursement to the PTA Treasurer up to the amount of their annual Classroom Grant.

**An Opportunity Grant** provides an avenue for teachers to apply for additional funds for a unique project. The applications are reviewed by the PTA Board on a case-by-case basis, and there is no guarantee of an award. The Opportunity Grant fund was established to support valuable initiatives that can’t be implemented with smaller Classroom Grant funds.

**Thurgood Marshall PTA Opportunity Grant Application**

**Applicant name**:

**Position**:

**Thurgood Marshall room number**:

**Email address**:

**Parent partner (if applicable):**

**Description of the Project/Opportunity** (100-500 words suggested):

**How will the Project/Opportunity “enrich the educational experience” of children at TM?** (50-150 words suggested):

**Estimated cost:** Please provide a total and a breakdown of expense items. Attach documentation of projected cost information. Reimbursement will be based on submission of receipts based on actual expenses up to the amount of the grant award.

**Have you already spent your Classroom Grant funds?**

**If not, how do you intend to spend your Classroom Grant funds?**

You are welcome to attach additional information about your idea.

**Signature**:

**Date Submitted:**

Please submit your completed application (as a Word document) to the PTA President(s) at pta@tmlink.org. If you don’t receive acknowledgement of your submission within 3 business days, please follow up with a PTA Officer (listed in the annual Family Directory).

**For PTA use only**

**Approved/Disapproved by the PTA Board**:

**Approved grant amount**:

**Comments**:

**Signature (PTA Executive Committee Member):**

**Date:**