

Inman PTA Grants Program 2016-17 Application Information & Process

PTA Grants support innovative educational efforts, including creative classroom projects, unique enrichments to curriculum, guest speakers or performers, field trips, and new club activities. **Please note: Grants cannot be used for snacks/food items, teacher training, salaries, or consumable goods (except in some specific situations, e.g. trying a new curriculum support).**

Objectives: The PTA seeks grant proposals that offer strategies/experiences to:

- Further the school's achievement plan.
- Improve student achievement and the school learning environment.
- Increase a teacher's ability to enhance differentiated instruction.
- Test new creative ideas for teaching and curriculum.
- Provide start-up clubs with durable resources to strengthen the quality of extra-curricular activities at the school. *NOTE: Clubs are expected to self-fund as well through student fees. Scholarships for students wishing to join clubs with membership fees can be requested through the school guidance counselor or PTA.*

*****New Application Process for 2016-17*****

We are encouraging all applicants to use DonorsChoose.org to apply for an Inman PTA Grant. The PTA Grants Committee will review *all* of the projects for Inman Middle School that are posted to the website by the deadline. If the application is for a club or sport, the teacher sponsor will need to post the request to DonorsChoose.org.

DonorsChoose.org enables teachers to request materials and resources for their classrooms and makes these project requests through its website. Donors can give to projects that interest them, which are searchable by school name, teacher name, location, school subject, material, and keywords. DonorsChoose.org then purchases necessary supplies and ships them directly to the schools. Every project contains a line-item budget and a description of the project.

The PTA will post a link to DonorsChoose.org on its website so that parents can also consider making a donation. We believe this is a great way to publicize all the needs of our teachers and students.

Deadlines: The deadline for submitting grant applications is **midnight on Friday, SEPTEMBER 30, 2016**. Applicants should check for a receipt notification within 72 hours. Award notifications will be sent out during October.

Grant Limit: The Grants Committee will award up to a maximum of \$1000 per project.

Evaluation: Grants will be awarded on a competitive basis after evaluation by a Grants Review Committee comprised of Inman PTA parent(s), teacher(s), and community member(s). Grant applicants may not serve on the committee. Areas evaluated include the number of students who will benefit from the project, the level of need at Inman for the project, the likelihood of success, and the sustainability of the project. Priority will be given to new proposals over previously funded projects, although the latter are eligible. However, grants are not intended to be a permanent funding mechanism for projects. Once a project has proven worthwhile, other permanent funding should be secured. Partial funding is available.

NOTE: All technology (i.e. tablets, cameras, LCD projectors, printers, etc.) must be cataloged by the Media Center Specialist before being released to the grant recipient.

Q&A from www.DonorsChoose.org--

▼ Does it cost money for teachers to post projects?

Heck no! You can sign up and post a project without spending a dime. Our site is absolutely free for teachers.

▼ How long does the process take?

You can create your very first project in about 30 minutes (even faster when you get the hang of it!). Our team of super-screener will review and post your project in about 3 days. You can choose to keep your project posted on the site for up to 4 months, though we've seen projects funded within hours of being posted! Once your project is funded, we'll order the materials and you'll get them in about 3 weeks or less!

▼ What are my responsibilities?

You'll pick out materials your classroom needs and answer some short essay questions about your project. If your project meets its funding goal, we'll ask you and your students to thank your donors with [notes and photos](#) of the project in action once the materials arrive.

▼ Who can post a project?

If you're employed full-time in a US public or public charter school, and you work directly with students at least 75% of the time, then you're probably eligible to sign up. Teachers at over 60% of US public schools have already signed up. Check out our full [eligibility details](#).

▼ What happens if my project isn't fully funded?

Projects can remain on the site for up to 4 months, and over 70% of projects reach their funding goal. If a project doesn't meet its funding goal by that time, donors can redirect their contributions to support your next project.

▼ Who owns the resources?

Any materials or resources we send should be directly experienced by the students as described in the project essay. After they've been used, resources are property of the classroom for which they were initially requested, so future classes can continue to benefit. Give our full [materials policy](#) a look.

Below is the recommended paragraph introducing Inman that we ask teachers use when they set up their project on DonorsChoose.org.

"Inman Middle School is a public school in Atlanta, Georgia, that serves a diverse population of approximately 1,100 students in 6th-8th grade. Our urban midtown Atlanta location brings together a wide range of socio-economic, racial and cultural backgrounds. We have students at all performance levels, necessitating differentiated instruction — as well as a large number of students served by Special Ed. Despite having the largest number of students living in transitional housing of any middle school within APS, Inman has lost Title 1 funding. This is a significant financial loss to the school's operating budget, making it more difficult to fund even the most basic resources like copy paper, ink and school supplies. However, even with all of Inman's challenges, our dedicated staff and hardworking students consistently produce outstanding work, in both academics and in extracurricular activities. We are proud to be the highest scoring middle school in the Atlanta Public School system."

If you have questions about the application process and/or DonorsChoose.org please contact Cindy Sands at grants@inmanmiddleschool.org.