GRANTS FOR PARENT, FAMILY AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

To: Principals (K-12)  
From: Michael B. Avant, CTC Principal  
Date: September 10, 2012  
Re: Grants for Parent, Family & Community Involvement

The River Parishes Education Foundation (RPEF) is offering a unique opportunity for teachers/counselors to encourage parent, family & community involvement in public schools. RPEF is a private sector initiative developed to encourage collaboration with the goal of achieving educational improvement in St. Charles, St. James, and St. John Parish.

Teacher grants will be awarded during the 2012-2013 school term to teachers and counselors interested in parent, family and community involvement projects in their schools. The grant will be in the amount of $500.00. These funds have been made available by RPEF and are restricted to the local initiatives committees of the tri-parishes.

Grant funds are not to be used to supplant existing funds or to develop programs which compete with established curriculums. The deadline to submit a grant application to me is Wednesday, October 10, 2012. The process of selecting the grants will be finalized in November 2012 with an award ceremony scheduled for December 2012. The funded projects are to be implemented during the of 2012-2013 school year.

The grant has been distributed to all teachers and counselors via e-mail. Their participation in this worthwhile project is appreciated.

Cc: Dr. Alonzo Luce  
    Carol Webre  
    Gaynell Albert  
    Principals
GRANTS FOR PARENT, FAMILY, AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

To: __________________________, Principal (K-12)

From: Michael Avant
       St. James Grant Coordinator for the River Parishes Education Foundation Grant

Date: September 10, 2012

Re: Grants for Parent, Family and Community Involvement

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The River Parishes Education Foundation (RPEF) is offering the three river parishes a unique opportunity to further encourage parent, family and community involvement in the public schools. RPEF is a private sector initiative that has been developed to encourage collaboration to achieve educational improvement in the tri-parishes.

The grant amount for the 2012-2013 school year will be $500.00. These funds have been made available by RPEF and are restricted to the local initiatives committees of the tri-parishes. Grant funds are not to be used to supplant existing funds or to develop programs to compete with established curriculums.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS
All applications shall contain the following information in the order listed:

- An Application COVER page
- Name(s) of Teachers(s)/Counselor(s) and telephone number(s)
- A NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION of the proposed project
- A PROPOSED BUDGET SUMMARY page and narrative description of each budget category
- AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE of principal and teacher(s)/counselor(s)

TIMELINES

- Deadline to submit grant applications:  Wednesday, October 10, 2012
  (Submit to Michael Avant at the CTC)
- Announcement of grant winners:  November 2012
- Award presentation and reception:  December 2012

QUESTIONS/ASSISTANCE
Contact:  Michael B. Avant, Principal
  mavant@stjames.k12.la.us
RIVER PARISHES EDUCATION FOUNDATION
2012 – 2013

TEACHER/COUNSELOR GRANT FOR
PARENT, FAMILY, AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Cover Page

Parish: St. James Parish School District

Project Director’s Information:

Teacher(s)/Counselor(s): Michelle (Shelly) Stall

Mailing Address: 134 Belle Terre

City/State/Zip: Thibodaux, La 70301

Telephone Number: 985-441-2019

Fax Number: N/A

School’s Information:

School: St. James High School

School Address: Mailing Address :( P.O. BOX 101 St. James, LA 70086)

City/State/Zip: Physical Address:(5181 Wildcat Street, St. James LA 70086)

Telephone Number: 225-265-3911 EXT 200

Fax Number: 225-265-2455
NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

Applicants should describe plans for innovative or creative projects that they have developed to better address Parent, Family, and Community Involvement Efforts in the public schools.

The narrative descriptions should include:

**Introduction**
State the primary goal(s) and/or objectives(s) of the grant.

Henry Ford once said, “If everyone is moving forward together, then success takes care of itself. Where else could that sentiment be better applied than in our nation’s schools? It takes the commitment of teachers, librarians, staff, and leaders in the school, and a rigorous curriculum to make the school effective but it also takes moving forward with the times. That is why I want the Helping Hand Project. My primary goal is to provide parents and students with resources to help them feel more confident in the area of technology, standardized testing, classroom assessment, and the most important goal is to build a relationship with the community.

**Support of Need**
Provide information to support the need to implement the activities outlined in the proposal. Provide support which indicates that the strategies will result in increased parent, family and community involvement.

The very fact that our lives are surrounded by so many technologies and there are so many students, teachers, and parents lacking the skills necessary to succeed is a strong reason to support the Helping Hand Project. Also, there are so many individuals that are frustrated and struggling with technology that having the Helping Hand Project will
provide them with some confidence and a better understanding of what St. James High school has to offer. With the students having so much pressure to do well on standardized test, the night will help to release some of that pressure by providing a night where materials and hands on activities will give them tools to help in the preparation. Now, this night will help parents to be able to give some guidance to their children at home.

**Participants**

Describe the benefits of the grant activities.

The State of Louisiana wants the school systems to have rigor and relevance when it comes to education. Tuesday, September 25, 2012 the Louisiana Public Broadcasting (LPB) broadcasted an interview with educators, advocates, and officials in the area of education. One topic that was brought up was, we must have rigor and relevance but we tend to forget about the importance of relationships. The benefit that I see of the Helping Hand Project is the building of a relationship with the community. Having a community night will help foster a relationship with teachers, students, and parents. Also, the night will provide an awareness of what is being offered here at St. James High school. There is a big concern with the Louisiana vouchers be given to families and the amount of students leaving our district. With such a concern, there is a need to bring people together and show that St. James High school is the place to attend. Also, recently there was a hurricane that has caused many hardships that is driving students to attend other schools. This night will help to show off how St. James High has so much to offer to the students, help to increase literacy skills, help in the preparation of the ACT and LEAP, and help to develop the lack of technology skills.

**Description of Action Plan**

Describe the action plan that will be used to implement the proposal. Include strategies, timelines, and evaluation procedures.

The purpose to the Helping Hand Project is to provide small group exposure to the various technologies that are being offered at St. James High School. Prior to the
activity, the participants will be provided with a survey to gather data on the skill level of the participants. Using a multisensory approach, the group participants will be provided with a variety of learning opportunities characterized by hands-on activities that will involve learning about different applications. They will discover MOODLE (which is an open source learning tool) and POWERSCHOOL (which is a student-based information system where parents and students can view report card grades.) The small grouping will focus on Literacy that night with the anticipation to increase technologies skills and provide resources to help the students to improve study habits and organization in the area of literacy. The ACT and the Leap will be addressed that night through activities in the hope that the students walk away that night feeling more confident as well as their parent. What a great way to lend a helping hand by exposing faculty, parents and students to new technologies especially with the Common Core now in place.

**Future Implementation**
Describe what must be done to sustain these efforts in the future.

In the future, positive feedback needs to be provided after the community night to be able to sustain this activity. If the parents feel the Helping Hand Project was worthwhile then I know this will be a continuous project. To make sure that the project continues in the future, my action plan is to contact the parents and keep open lines of communication. If St. James High shows that we care about our community then the parents will want to come back to an event at night. Once the community night is established then funding can be reduced easily.
RPEF Parent, Family, and Community Involvement Grant

PROPOSED BUDGET SUMMARY
2012-2013

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<th>Expenditure Category</th>
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<th>Brief Description of Expenditure</th>
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<tr>
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**Signatures:**

**Project Director(s)**______________________________

(The project director is the teacher(s)/counselor(s) submitting the grant.)
Teachers/Counselors,

Attached is information pertaining to the River Parishes Education Foundation Grant Opportunity. It’s a $500 grant funded by RPEF. Please consider applying for the grant as it entails a very simple application while affording you the opportunity to combine an educational project with parental involvement.

**KEY TO A SUCCESSFUL RPEF GRANT - You must involve Parents, families, or community members in some manner!**

I look forward to receiving your grant submission; you may either e-mail it, send through interoffice mail, or drop it off at the CTC.

**The DEADLINE is Wednesday, October 10, 2012.**

Please contact me if you have any questions,

Michael B. Avant, CTC Principal
mavant@stjames.k12.la.us