

**The St. James Parish Excellence in Education Fund  
Mini Grants for Teachers  
Cover Page**

**Instructions:** Complete this cover page and narrative. Cover page must have principal and applicant's signatures. Email the file to Rhonda Lee, [rlee@stjames.k12.la.us](mailto:rlee@stjames.k12.la.us) by **noon October 2, 2015**. Please use the following naming convention for your file: **your first and last name, Mini Grant**. Example: **Rhonda Lee Mini Grant**. You will receive an email upon receipt of grant.

Project Title: PAL (Peer Advisory Leader) Budget Request: 1000

Teacher's name: Shelly Stall and Laura Poirier

Mailing Address: 5160 Wildcat Drive

City: St. James. State: LA Zip Code: 70086

Phone No. 225-258-4900 Email Address: [mstall@stjames.k12.la.us](mailto:mstall@stjames.k12.la.us) and [lpoirier@stjames.k12.la.us](mailto:lpoirier@stjames.k12.la.us)

School: St. James High School Grade Level: 7-12

Teaching Position: Media Specialist (Shelly)

Guidance Counselor (Laura) No. of Students Served: 664

Subject(s) taught: Life Skills (Mentoring) Enrollment: 664

This proposal addresses a **balanced, developmentally appropriate instruction and comprehensive learning opportunities, with an emphasis on the implementation of Common Core Standards**. By affixing my signature, I certify that the following:

1. This project is allowable under Local, State, and Federal guidelines.
2. The St. James Parish Foundation has the right to use this project, if funded, for public information or to help other educators.
3. This project does not displace, replace or supplant programs funded through St. James Parish General Fund, the Minimum Foundation Program or State General Fund.
4. This proposal is in keeping with the vision and mission of St. James parish Public School System and is intended to impact student achievement or vocational skill.
5. I am a full time teacher in St. James Parish School system directly involved with the instruction of children.
6. Supplies and equipment will be used to successfully implement the grant and will be housed in the school where implemented.
7. Participants in the project are PK-12<sup>th</sup> grade students enrolled in St. James Parish Public School System.

Michelle Shelly Stall  
Laura Poirier  
Signature of Applicant

9/14/2015  
Date

[Signature]  
Signature of Principal

9-14-2015  
Date

(Office Use Only—to be secured by St. James Parish Excellence in Education Fund)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Superintendent

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Fund Director

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Complete and email to:  
Rhonda Lee  
[rlee@stjames.k12.la.us](mailto:rlee@stjames.k12.la.us)

**The St. James Parish Excellence in Education Fund  
Mini Grants for Teachers  
Application**

**Please limit your responses to 250 words. This document is in a table. As you type your response, the table will move.**

**Project Title:**     PAL: (Peer Advisory Leader)     **Budget Request:**     1000

**A. Project Summary:** Provide an overview of the proposed project including any unique characteristics as well as the purpose of the project and how it will be achieved.

The purpose of PAL (Peer Advisory Leader) is for the St. James High school students to be mentors to the middle school students at the school. The goals for the high school students are for these teenagers to gain skills in dealing with people in a capacity that focuses on conflict resolution, academics, student behavior, and student expectations in general. The goals for the middle school students are the same goals as those for high school students; however middle school students will gain even more internally and come to a realization that there are certain expectations for being a model student. According to Dr. Patricia Fioriello, an expert in Educational Leadership, "When teens mentor, they can change the life of kids in a good sense and turn them into ideal human beings."

The student outcomes are that both groups will grow internally. The hope is that they learn from each other and grow in a positive manner, which will only lead to student success. The high school students are at a point in their lives when they are "coming of age". They are going forward from their teenage years to adulthood and participating in a mentoring program will only help them to build skills that will help them to be able to interact with people in their professional lives and be true leaders. As for the middle school students, these students who participate in the mentoring program should gain skills that will help guide them to be productive students and ideal human beings. Becoming a good student is a stepladder to becoming a productive and ideal adult.

**B. Number and Description of Participants:** Provide a description of the students who are to be directly served if this project is funded, including any special characteristics or unique situations.

The PAL program will be open to all of the St. James High student body. The population consists of approximately 664 students. Within this group, there are 51 special education students. The grade levels that will be served are 7<sup>th</sup> grade through 12<sup>th</sup> grade. Within the 7<sup>th</sup> grade group, there are 76 African Americans, 3 Hispanics, 1 Multi-Ethnic, and 15 Whites totaling 95 students in all. Within the 8<sup>th</sup> grade group, there are 88 African Americans, 3 Hispanics, 1 Multi-Ethnic, and 23 whites totaling 115 students in all. Within the 9<sup>th</sup> grade group, there are 92 African Americans, 21 whites, and 1 unclassified totaling 114 students in all. Within the 10<sup>th</sup> grade group, there are 119 African Americans, 3 Hispanics, 1 Multi-Ethnic, and 25 whites totaling 148 students in all. Within the 11<sup>th</sup> grade group there are 86 African Americans, 2 Multi-Ethnic, 26 whites totaling 114 students in all. Within the 12<sup>th</sup> grade group, there are 57 African Americans, 2 Multi-Ethnic, 19 whites totaling 78 students in all. Within all of these groups there are regular education students and special education students. The academics consist of students who are above average, average and below average. This data provided was reported from Powerschool that is the online grading portal for our St. James Parish school district. (See Table 1.)

Table 1.

Grade Level	Total in Grade	Asian	African American	Hispanic	American Indian	Multi-Ethnic	Other	Pacific Islander	White	Unclassified
7	95 49 / 46	0 0 / 0	76 36 / 40	3 3 / 0	0 0 / 0	1 0 / 1	0 0 / 0	0 0 / 0	15 10 / 5	0 0 / 0
8	115 56 / 59	0 0 / 0	88 43 / 45	3 2 / 1	0 0 / 0	1 1 / 0	0 0 / 0	0 0 / 0	23 10 / 13	0 0 / 0
9	114 57 / 57	0 0 / 0	92 46 / 46	0 0 / 0	0 0 / 0	0 0 / 0	0 0 / 0	0 0 / 0	21 10 / 11	1 1 / 0
10	148 81 / 67	0 0 / 0	119 65 / 54	3 2 / 1	0 0 / 0	1 0 / 1	0 0 / 0	0 0 / 0	25 14 / 11	0 0 / 0
11	114 59 / 55	0 0 / 0	86 39 / 47	0 0 / 0	0 0 / 0	2 1 / 1	0 0 / 0	0 0 / 0	26 19 / 7	0 0 / 0
12	78 34 / 44	0 0 / 0	57 26 / 31	0 0 / 0	0 0 / 0	2 1 / 1	0 0 / 0	0 0 / 0	19 7 / 12	0 0 / 0
Total	664 336 / 328	0 0 / 0	518 255 / 263	9 7 / 2	0 0 / 0	7 3 / 4	0 0 / 0	0 0 / 0	129 70 / 59	1 1 / 0

**C. Purpose:** Provide the rationale for the proposed project, including anticipated results for students.

The rationale is that the middle school students need support in the area of behavior and student expectations. Schools are facing challenges in their efforts to educate children appropriately and safely. Students who demonstrate inappropriate, anti-social, and/or disruptive behaviors are becoming more prevalent. School personnel are dealing with disruptive behaviors that occur more frequently and that affect staff and student safety. Additionally, the lack of discipline or management of disruptive behaviors has been identified by the public as the most persistent and possibly the most troublesome issue facing schools (Cotton, 2001; Elam, Rose, & Gallop, 1998; Fitzsimmons, 1998; Killion, 1998). With this said, it is important that steps are taken to help mold the students into productive citizens. Why not try a mentoring program that is student lead? The student outcome is that the middle school students and the high school students build a bond and they learn from each other. The approach is innovative in that there is no mentoring program at St. James High. The PAL program will be unique in the sense that the



students will not only help to motivate and tutor each other in academics but also in social skills.

**D. Needs Assessment:** Provide evidence that there is a need for this project, and describe the needs of the students to be served.

The PAL program will be open to all of members of the St. James High student body. The population consists of approximately 664 students. Within this group, there are 51 special education students. The grade levels that will be served are 7<sup>th</sup> grade through 12<sup>th</sup> grade. Among all of the grade levels, there are behavior issues. There are students not understanding student expectations. The most prevalent offense is failure to serve consequence. Willful disobedience is a serious issue as well. The table below provides data, which was gathered for August 2015, the first month of school, which proves that there is a need for a mentoring program at St. James High School. Even though administration has seen behavior improved over the years, the school is still having issues with students not complying with what is expected as a model student. The PAL program is a step to moving in the right direction.

Table 2

Category	Total	Gender		Grade Level		7	8	9	10	11	12
		F	M								
01 - Willful Disobedience^	40	17	23	0	1	19	10	6	4		
02 - Treats An Authority With Disrespect^	7	7	0	1	1	2	2	1	0		
04 - Use Profane And/Or Obscene Language^	15	7	8	2	0	4	5	2	2		
05 - Is Guilty Of Immoral Or Vicious Practices^	3	2	1	3	0	0	0	0	0		
06 - Is Guilty Of Conduct Or Habits Injurious^	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0		
10 - Disturbs The School Or Habitually Violates^	14	4	10	2	7	0	2	1	2		
15 - Throws Missiles Liable to Injure Others^	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0		
16 - Instigates or Participates in Fights^	13	13	0	0	1	2	4	1	5		
18 - Leaves School Premises or Classroom ^	12	6	6	2	0	2	2	2	4		
19 - Is Habitually Tardy and/or Absent^	32	9	23	1	3	7	11	5	5		
20 - Is Guilty of Stealing^	2	1	1	0	0	2	0	0	0		
21 - Commits Any Other Serious Offense^	7	6	1	0	4	2	0	1	0		
42 - Unauthorized Use of Technology^	5	2	3	1	0	2	1	0	1		
43 - Improper Dress^	71	16	55	18	27	0	8	12	6		
44 - Academic Dishonesty^	2	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	1		
46 - Failure to Serve Assigned Consequences^	76	8	68	0	0	18	24	18	16		
47 - Misusing Internet^	7	2	5	0	2	2	2	0	1		

**E. Design:** Give a complete description of how the project integrates a comprehensive design (including key activities, and other related information) for improving student performance using effective assessment.

The PAL program will have multiple activities. The guidance counselor along with the media specialist will have a meeting after school to explain the idea behind PAL to the high school students. At this meeting, there will be training and group discussions on how the program will be successful for all. The training will deal with conflict resolution, academics, student behavior, and student expectations in general. Once the training is complete, the high school students will complete a survey on what they think about the training. Through the survey, students will be able to make suggestions.

The first activity will be an activity after school with both middle school and high school students. It will be a "meet and greet". This is where we will get to know each other and help to build trust. The next activity will have the high school students working with the middle school students in Academic Hall. There will be a set schedule to decide how many times this peer assistance will take place. Academic Hall is where the teachers work with students through remediation. The last activity will be an after school-tutoring program which will organized using a set schedule. At the end, both groups will complete a survey to express their opinions of PAL.

**F. Objectives & Evaluation** – Provide the anticipated impact, outcome(s), and changes the proposed project will have on student performance, and provide a description of the evaluation methods the applicant will use to determine how well it has met its objectives.

The PAL program will have a positive impact on student behavior as evidenced by a minimum of 10% reduction in referrals. To measure the impact of the mentoring program, the classroom teacher will complete a pre and post survey to help us determine if PAL was successful. Additionally, the referral report (Table 2) which is data provided for the first nine weeks will be compared to the referral report from each nine weeks to see if the referrals are decreasing. Additional analysis will include a review of the number of infractions in each disciplinary category.

**G. Itemized Budget**

**Complete the columns:** Items to be purchased should be justified within the DESIGN OF THE PROJECT. Projects cannot displace, replace or supplant programs funded through St. James Parish School Board of the State General Fund.

**Note:** All items purchased through this grant are for the use of teachers in assigned St. James Parish schools. Should a teacher leave the St. James parish Public School System or transferred to another school in the system, all grant purchases will remain in the school where the teacher last taught. Grants awarded to teachers reassigned to a different field of teaching will be evaluated to determine if grant purchases are eligible for transfer.

Items to be Purchased	Projected Cost
Copy paper	\$54.29
Card stock (certificates)	\$63.96
Folders	\$130.99
Labels	\$29.99
Pens/pencils	\$20.00
Food	\$300.00
Incentives	\$400.00
<b>Total Project Cost:</b>	<b>999.23</b>

**Additional Funding Sources:** List other revenue sources or donated items and funding sources.