

1. **Project Name:** Cultural Resource Center
2. **Project Number:** 54
3. **Campus Name:** Grant Wood Elementary School

4. Project Description:

The school seeks funding to develop a cultural resource center. The center will provide easy access for all students, teachers, parents and community members. Students will benefit from a warm, inviting area for reading, listening and research. A committee including the staff, teachers, parents and community leaders was established to formulate a plan for the resource center to be integrated into the existing building structure. The resource center will be the hub of the school community—offering computer classes, recreation and enrichment activities and courses for college credit with flexible hours. It will serve as a centrally located space for community meetings, non-curricular clubs and organizations in the immediate attendance area. This additional space would create viable opportunities for students/families without access to computers, internet services, transportation or media resources.

5. Project Objectives:

This center will meet the needs of students as well as the school community for years to come. This project would involve adding a 2nd floor to the existing east wing of the building and installing solar panels to support the use of large glass windows—allowing ample natural lighting. The primary objective for this project is to provide opportunities for intergenerational and diverse populations to come together to share learning experiences and maintain the rich culture of our community. Reaching out to seniors in our community would result in greater volunteerism and mentoring. Most non-working volunteers make great partners because they are usually available, motivated to help, consistent, versatile and effective. Their years of experience help them avoid getting rattled or anxious when things don't go perfectly. "Older adults bring a wonderful calmness and wisdom to their relationships with the students. There's just an ease about them. Faced with situations that might frustrate younger adults, older adults bring patience and a different perspective to the work they're doing. I think this comes from their life experience." —Ann Gardner Birnbaum, Director, Experience Corps Washington, DC

6. General Information:

Adding a 2nd floor to the entire east wing would enhance and expand the current IMC and create additional spaces for multiple purposes. The school could partner with local colleges/universities looking to provide 'hands on' experience with students. This could translate into additional support to our students in the areas of reading, math and science. Professors could teach courses right on our campus and their students could actually put their learning into practice on a daily basis. The students who need challenging work in math, science and technology could spend a portion of their day working with college students and professors in our building! This exposure could ignite a passion for more in-depth knowledge about a great number of subjects or topics.

7. Summary:

Opportunities to learn, as well as teach, offer the best chance for students to achieve at high levels. Life-long learners must include adults who live alone, across the street, or without children. They are still essential to the life of our schools and communities. Because of their years of experience, they have wisdom to share, but we must welcome them back into our buildings. Students thrive when there's a feeling of belonging as well as the feeling of being needed by someone. Bringing youth and older adults together to learn from and about each other can increase understanding and respect among all generations.

8. Project Outcomes:

We will know the Cultural Resource Center is successful by the following:

- 1) Improved problem-solving and social-emotional skills by students
- 2) Increased involvement in historical lessons by adults in the community
- 3) Documented attendance on a daily/weekly/monthly basis
- 4) Class registrations for community colleges, universities or community meetings
- 5) Monthly calendar of scheduled activities in various areas of the facility
- 6) Projects completed by students participating in enrichment classes and/or courses.

1. Project Name: New Front Door Security Entrance

2. Project Number: 55

3. Campus Name: Grant Wood Elementary School

4. Project Description:

We propose expanding the front entry way and sealing off the existing glass-paneled doors at the school. A new entry would be created so guests have to stop in the main office before going into the hallways of the school. This would allow office staff to physically see and visit with every guest who enters the building. A personal greeting would enhance the friendly, welcoming atmosphere we want to present to all visitors. Currently, the best safety device we have is an outside camera and hallway mirrors. However, once an individual is "buzzed" in, he/she could move past the mirrors and have access to any part of our 3-story building. Having a pleasant, secure entry would shield guests from adverse weather if/when a number of people arrive as a group. Our committee wants to leave a legacy of having provided a safe, secure learning environment for all students.

5. Project Objectives:

The purpose of this project is to increase the security in our building. Although cameras are installed, there are "blind spots" throughout the building and limited staff to man every point of entry and hallway. Having a secure front-door entry system would indicate the significance of maintaining security throughout the day. In addition, automatic outside doors would lock/unlock in sync with building bells for recess and lunch transitions as well as start and end times of the day.

6. General Information:

Again, the purpose would be to strengthen overall building security. A fundamental principle for all schools has to be the priority of ensuring the physical safety of students. Parents continue to question how safe our schools are when they (parents) seem to have unlimited access without being approached or questioned by an adult. Security and student safety is everyone's job and not just the front office staff. There are staff members who secretly maintain entrance door keys and prop open doors and windows without giving it a second thought. Unfortunately, open doors create opportunities for vandals, thieves and other criminals.

7. Summary:

Electronic access to outside doors would increase security. There are computer-based solutions that grant access based on credentials (a coded identification card). Swipe cards would replace mechanical keys. Doors would automatically unlock for a certain amount of time and the entry would be recorded. Attempted entries would also be recorded and could be used in criminal investigations. With the new entry, visitors would not have full access to the building. They would enter a locked vestibule which would provide shelter from weather. To gain further access beyond this point, they would exchange a form of identification for school-issued visitors' badges.

8. Project Outcomes:

We will know if this plan is successful by:

- a. No reported incidents of visitors who fail to stop in or sign in at the main office
- b. No reported incidents of unaccompanied individuals in the building without identification.
- c. No reported incidents of unidentified individuals in the building during operating hours
- d. No documented calls from the security company for unauthorized entry.
- e. No observed building emergency violations such as propped open doors

1. **Project Name:** Expansion of Cafeteria/Dining Room

2. **Project Number:** 56

3. **Campus Name (3):** Grant Wood School

4. **Project Description:**

The school currently seats approximately 144 (16 to a table) during brief 20-minute lunch periods. The average breakfast count is 110. Because the cafeteria is so small, lunch schedules are not conducive to students having time to consume their meals before being rushed out to accommodate waiting students. We have become very creative in routing students in and out of the serving line area to avoid "cross contamination." We propose knocking out the wall closest to the hallway and installing doors. We could expand the dining area and more comfortably and adequately serve students. This newly created space could accommodate gathering and events for community and extra-curricular groups. This space would now include stove, sink and refrigerated storage area. These additions would greatly expand the use of the cafeteria/dining room for class projects and after school enrichment activities.

5. **Project Objectives:**

This project would involve expanding the cafeteria by 6-8 feet in width and length as the new entry door would connect to the current music room. It is usually quite noisy in the cafeteria and many students either eat too fast or simply don't eat at all. Note: This has nothing to do with what is served. It has more to do with the amount of time and the lack of physical space in the dining area. Students who are leaving the cafeteria have to be extra careful not to bump into students who are coming into the dining area with their food. Currently large garbage cans and a water pan for dirty silverware separates the two groups of students. Cafeteria supervisors have to monitor very carefully to avoid accidents as students navigate their way to/from their seats. There is virtually no space for students to exit the cafeteria when they are done. Tables are so close together and approximately 24" from the windows. This is the space students must use to exit the cafeteria. They are literally within inches of the tables where other students are now eating their lunch. This project will explore the use of round tables that could seat 10-12 students with built-in stools for seating.

5. **General Information:**

Students need to have an environment where they can socialize without screaming. They should be able to share ideas and experiences--just as adults do. Long tables are not conducive to appropriate volume or modeling of proper table etiquette. It is nearly impossible to visit with someone who is 6 individuals away from you without raising your voice a little. Round tables would create a "family style" atmosphere and encourage appropriate social communication during meals. It would make it possible for a teacher, volunteer or mentor to share a story or experience with students while they quietly enjoy their meal.

6. Summary:

Because students sit so close together and have to enter the tables by turning sideways to get their feet and legs under, accidents and/or misunderstandings result in office referrals. Students who are leaving the cafeteria must be extra careful not to bump into students who are coming into the dining area with their food. There is virtually no space for students to exit the cafeteria when they are done. Exiting students are literally within inches of the tables where other students are now eating their lunch. More space would mean fewer disruptions to classroom instruction.

7. Project Outcomes:

We will know this project is successful when:

- a. We have fewer office referrals based on cafeteria issues
- b. Students are served in a timely fashion and return to classes on time
- c. Students express contentment with being able to sit/talk appropriately