



Midtown Primary School
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Midtown Primary School Wish List 2012 / 2013

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Demographics

Midtown Primary is small charter school in central Phoenix. It is an inner-city school with 89% below poverty, with over 90 students qualifying for government subsidized lunch. The school delivers K – 4th grade to one hundred students. One hundred students also our max enrollment and we have had a waiting list for the past four years. There are five teacher, two assistants plus a group of volunteer moms helping serve lunch.

Our parent involvement is phenomenal, for example we took 80 children to the Desert Botanical Garden and had 40 parent helpers. We do an annual Pumpkin Fest; parent volunteers run all the booths and when we go the ballet annually, we have a 1:2 ratio of adults to kids.

Adopted Families Program

Every year we pick a dozen families that need help that we provide Christmas for. We give it to the parents to make their family's holiday. As we believe the best form of charity is giving without needing acknowledgement, we have a strict policy that the school takes no credit for helping our families. (Its pretty amazing to see the parents light up when they realize the gifts are for them, to be from them). We will put out a full list with details as time gets closer. It's All About the Kids Foundation gives every child a Discovery Toy. NHBC adopts half a dozen full families. A golf resort is buying gifts for each child.

We have don't do a food drive as our families would bring for the "needy" that *they* need. Food baskets would be put to very good use.

Staff Retention (most valuable gift)

The staff of our small charter school make less than the big district schools. My teachers have all been returning each year for five years, when I took over. They enjoy the intimacy of knowing all the families and working closely as a team. Their experience keeps the campus smooth, the children's needs well met & the parents secure. I want to give them periodic performances bonuses and a resign bonus to keep them motivated and returning. The five teachers make \$5000 - \$6000 less per year than the districts' pay scale. The teachers are high quality, highly responsibility and I would like to give them \$6000/yr distributed quarterly based on retention & service. approximately: \$30,000

Staff Care Packages

We try to give our staff appreciation baskets for back-to-school, Valentine's Day, Teacher Appreciation Day, Christmas, etc. so they know how much we care and how valued they are in spite of not having the budget to compete with the district schools. You can create "baskets" or pick up things here and there for us to put in our baskets: Starbucks cards, protein bars, gift cards to restaurants or Kohls or teaching stores... There are 5 lead teachers (4 women, 1 man), a certified special assistance teacher, and 2 assistants. approximately: \$5 - \$1,500

Kid T-Shirts and Teacher Polos

We have designed school T-shirts with our logo on the front. They are for the students to buy and be able to wear showing the pride in their school. The families are very excited about them! Prime Source gave us great discounts and all the design was done by volunteers. We still need to charge \$8/ shirt to recoup our expense in printing them. Some families won't be able to afford them. We are giving them away as an incentive for a month's perfect attendance. We could use help with this incentive program. \$8 - \$800

The school is also providing special blue T-shirts that will be given to each student to wear on field trips so that they are easily identified. \$8 - \$800

A white polo has been designed for the staff to wear. They are very excited about having a school shirt, which I offered to buy for them when my budget was a bit brighter. \$19 - \$247

Reading

Books on tape Listening Centers: jack strip with 5 headphones per class (5 classes) approximately: \$600

Manipulatives

EDUCATIONAL ADVANTAGE:

We emphasize hands-on learning. The children learn the lessons more thoroughly and without duress when they are given lots of reinforcement learning activities

NEEDED:

Montessori-type centers, art activities, games.... approximately: \$2000

Computer Learning Centers

Computers in the classrooms were donated by NCHB, Az Federal Cr Union & ESS. Each class has a flat screen monitor, keyboard & a P3 computer with speakers and headphones.

EDUCATIONAL ADVANTAGE:

The computers act as an independent learning station. Unlike most communities, most of our families do NOT have computers. These centers provide familiarity to computers.

NEEDED:

Educational Computer Software & Games

ALSO WANT:

This group of computers has been a service to our students and teachers. We do not have an "IT Guy" so this hodge podge of computers is difficult to manage. I have a very inexpensive "Geek" willing to consult and handle our difficulties. Having her on contract for consulting and "repairs" is not currently in the budget. approximately: \$1000

Facility Improvements (First Priority due to current HEAT)

We need to upgrade our lunch area. We eat outside under an awning and I'd like to put down pavers to eliminate the dust & dirt. Misters would also improve conditions for the kids at lunchtime. approximately: \$1700

Our drinking two fountains are ancient and have had to be patched together for several years. We need to replace them this year. approximately: \$1300

Our classrooms rely on window units to keep them cool enough during peak heat. Two of the units are about 7 years old and need to be replaced. approximately: \$500

Water Cooler for the Kindergarten Class. Their room is farthest away from the drinking fountain and we would rather they not wander across campus for a drink. We have a hard time keeping them hydrated. approximately: \$80 - \$120

Thank you for your consideration and help! Judy White, Administrator - Principal