

Worthington Bicentennial Teachers' Grant Proposal

Chaseland: Cradle of Worthington Education

Colonial Hills Elementary

Jill Carter

Amount Requested: \$1000

Chaseland: Cradle of Worthington Education

Piecing Together our Educational History

Colonial Hills Elementary School's Bicentennial project will be a multifaceted production involving all students and staff, with parent and community volunteer participation, as well. We are proud to present a project of this magnitude and hopefully, long reaching duration. What a wonderful way to honor Worthington!

1. Our purpose will be to explain and demonstrate, through many activities, the contributions made by the Chase family and their associates to the education system of Worthington, in particular. The Chase farm, ranging over 150 acres which became known as Chaseland, and covering what is now our Colonial Hills school neighborhood, was our community's first formal education center and the original home of Kenyon College. Thus, we will forge the connection through our study/research and activities to enlighten our community and underscore the important contributions of the Chase family to education here in Worthington and beyond.

We will launch our study and activities during October, preceding our Founders' Day celebration, and continue working on the project throughout the school year. Central to our project will be two quilts which will be produced with the help of all grades K-6, and which will then be presented to our school and Kenyon College in the late spring or early summer. The quilts will depict Philander Chase and his family and the important contributions that they made when pioneering education in early Worthington. To these ends, opportunities to employ the multiple intelligences of our school family and participation in a spectrum of activities that include multimedia technology and documentation, will culminate in a Dedication Ceremony and Jubilee, featuring awards, our quilts, other related displays, and guest speakers from Kenyon College. We will highlight Colonial Hill's uniqueness while celebrating our solidarity with the other schools in Worthington and our community's educational evolution. Computer generated HyperStudio Slide presentations, utilizing information on the Worthington Memory site and found in the archives of the Worthington Room at our public library, will be created. Videos and still

photography will be developed to further document our school's participation in this bicentennial project. Copies will be made available to the Memory Project archives for Worthington and the State of Ohio Memory Project, along with a companion book for our quilts..

Since our staff is well associated with the process of integration inherent within our curriculum, these activities will be naturally developed as components of our normal school day and the disciplines which we instruct enthusiastically. Our third graders' Worthington Unit study will be enhanced by particular attention to the Chaseland heritage.

2. Our Bicentennial project will include opportunities to participate in literacy pursuits of reading, writing, poetry, researching and specific documenting to be included in a companion book to our quilts, and published by our Colonial Hills Publishers. Our media specialist, the EMC, and the Memory Project Web sites will be invaluable as we learn more about the Chase family and Chaseland, early education in Worthington, and the development of Kenyon College. Art will be rendered in many forms, including computer-generated design work and hand crafting of colonial goods. Musical activities will include learning songs about Philander Chase and an original song produced to honor the Worthington education system, the Chaseland acreage, and our school family's quilt making. As we design and develop each quilt block, grade by grade, historical explanations will be written by the students to accompany, as a legend, each block pictured in our book. Quilt layout will be arranged with the help of our intermediate math students and the Math EPP participants; book editing will also be conducted with the help of our sixth grade students and Language EPP participants. These older student groups will be acting as project mentors to the younger students through their participation/facilitation and example, offering all students opportunities to hone their skills of communication and interpersonal development. Opportunities for associated projects will be welcomed for those who wish to express individualized participation, aside from designated group activities. A possibility of producing a musical play about colonial times might exist, also.

To demonstrate the impact of our Worthington Schools' heritage, a liaison is being developed with Kenyon College. Literature links will be fostered with opportunities for a

Poetry/Essay Contest to be judge by Kenyon students and professors. Kenyon visitors will be invited to come "home" to help celebrate our rich educational history in Worthington, honor the winners, and receive their quilt from Chaseland, now Colonial Hills.

3. Our project will kick-off the week prior to October 19 - Founders' Day and continue throughout our school year. A Quilt Block Design contest will be held in December and judged in early January. Literary project entries will be due by April 15, and judged in May. Quilting design, layout, and stitching will be continuous from October until the end of May. A spring field trip to Kenyon College and the Old Worthington Unit trip will occur in May, also. Ideally, our Dedication Ceremony and Jubilee will be held during the first week of June, before summer break. This celebration will feature our quilts, Kenyon Connection Literary Awards, and Chase Cup Technology Awards. Hopefully, these recognitions will become an annual presentation at our school.

4. Appreciative Inquiry and informal surveying of our students, their parents, staff, community volunteers, and Kenyon College participants will offer insight to help determine the success of our bicentennial project. Assessment of students' newly acquired learning will also be considered and demonstrated in literary offerings, art work, technological renderings, and performance presentations. Awards will be noted for student achievement, also.

5. A steering committee of our principal, staff, student council representatives, and parent volunteers will guide our organization and the implementation of our project. Kenyon College representatives will also participate in planning our liaison activities and when judging student produced literary and technological entries. Mrs. Carter will chair the committee and help direct activities.

6. Budget needs include: Quilting materials - \$500.00
Companion Book & Publishing - \$100.00
Video & Photography film and supplies - \$100.00
Buses for field trip to Kenyon - \$200.00
Guest speakers - \$100.00
Total monetary request - \$1000.00

Other funds, materials, and labor for our project will be donated or from in-kind services.