

Worthington Bicentennial Teachers' Grant Proposal

Stages of School – Worthington 1803 to 2003

Worthington Kilbourne High School

Holly Thompson

Amount Requested: \$800

Project Objectives:

The objectives for this project are two-fold. First, students will produce a theatrical performance, based on written historical documents, in the style of reader's theatre, which explores the lives of students and their teachers in Worthington, OH from approximately 1803 to a more modern time. By further studying the history of their own community and by studying particularly the people who were their own age, students will have a stronger connection to the piece on which they are working and their community. The history of the written word will be brought to life on the stage.

Secondly, students will participate in recording the piece they have created on videotape and/or CD-ROM which will be enhanced with photos, video and other visual elements. Not only will the theatre students benefit from this experience, but the videotape will offer teachers another tool with which to teach Worthington history and connect their students to students of the past. This video may also be included in the Worthington Memory project.

Project Description:

ACT.- A Curriculum for Theatre Education, published by the Ohio Theatre Alliance, states the following as the four major goals for students in theatre: to understand the role of theatre in people's lives historically, socially, and culturally, to communicate through theatre for personal expression and performance, to respond to theatre critically, and to value theatre by understanding the nature and meanings of theatre.

This project will enhance the curriculum presently taught in the Theatre Repertory class by offering students the opportunity to assist in creating and revising original scripts from written documents; explore the society, history and culture of the community in which they live through a medium (theatre) about which they are passionate; deepen their understanding of play structure and analysis in a manner that is different from using a prepared script; work as dramaturgs; and also allow participation in the creation of a performance in a medium (video) in which they normally do not have the opportunity. The subject matter utilized in the creation process will be copies of original documents including, but not limited to, letters and diary entries, books, newspaper articles, yearbooks, photos, and

videotape of existing landmarks. Students may also use information concerning other mid-western small towns which are similar to Worthington in order to gain greater understanding of the world during different time periods.

Ultimately, students will be able to perform their theatrical piece not only in classrooms as a teaching tool about the community but also in public spaces (possibly the public library) as part of celebrations or other similar events during the school year. The possibility exists to perform as part of the Arts-In-Action celebration within Worthington Kilbourne as well.

The project must be broken down into three parts.

Part One: Students from WKHS Theatre Repertory select from written documents possible script material for production. By creating this script from the written word of others, students' understanding of the playwriting process will be enhanced.

Part Two: Rehearsal and staging of the script will take place, followed by performances.

Part Three: Transference to videotape and CD-ROM. Students explore acting skills and techniques as used in the medium of video which differ from those used in live theatre. These techniques will be practiced through the transference of the live performance to a video format. In addition, pictures and photographs that would be difficult to use in live performance will be added to enhance the video format. Students will analyze the difference between performance experiences and the products of the two mediums.

Proected Timeline:

Summer 2002-Teacher planning and preparation

1. Background reading of Worthington history, identification of other written sources, reading about other mid-western towns which are similar to Worthington, research into the social practices of children and teenagers, hiring practices of teachers, Worthington's role in significant historical events and the daily life of its' residents during different time periods.
2. Research and photocopying documents for use by students.

3. Identification of reading materials to be assigned to students for general background information.

4. Permission gained from proper parties in order to use the material in the documents for presentation both on stage and in videotape.

Fall 2002--Presentation of project to WKHS Theatre Repertory classes, preliminary reading assigned.

December 2002--Students come together for script creation.

January 2003-March 2003--Script is rehearsed and refined.

March 2003/April 2003--Beginning of possible public performances. Performances could take the form of presentation at the Worthington library and in elementary classrooms.

April 2003--Transference of live performance to videotape/television performance.

This project will be complete once recorded on video, although live performances may be able to be recreated when requested provided availability of students to perform.

Evaluation:

The project will be successful if the script is performed and creates some drama in its' story telling. The applause will indicate the students' success. The desire for other teachers to use the video in their teaching about Worthington History and American history during 1803 to more modern times is another yardstick of the effectiveness of the project.

Personnel:

Holly Thompson, Theatre educator, Worthington Kilbourne High School will be researching, organizing, directing, and guiding students through this process to the live theatrical performance. Sandra Kucinich-Hom will be directing, filming, editing the video portion of the project. In addition, Miriam Utter, Worthington Room Librarian, and Jordy Ventresca Worthington Room Manager of the Worthington Public Library, the Worthington Historical Society, and the Ohio Historical Society will be utilized for their knowledge and to access documents. Nancy Charlton has volunteered to assist in researching as well. The search for documents will most likely lead to other, as of now, unknown sources.

Budget:

Holly Thompson

30 hours research and preparation time @ workshop rate of \$15/hour \$450

Sandra Kucinich-Horn --

10 hours filming/editing time to create video @ workshop rate of \$15/hour \$150

Photocopying expenses for on-site copying of historical documents \$100

Mini DV, videotapes and CDs \$50

Costumes, props and scenery expenses \$50

Use of video camera and editing equipment at WKHS no cost

Use of rehearsal space for performances- WKHS Studio theatre or auditorium no cost