

Hello! My name is Gabrielle Landreth and I am a first-year teacher at Wildwood Middle High School. I teach agriculture to middle and high school students here at Wildwood. With a strong passion in agriculture, I enjoy teaching my students the importance of this industry. Although the students may not enter the field of agriculture, my goal is to provide them with the information and experiences needed to become knowledgeable consumers. We are extremely blessed to have access to a fully functioning barn at Wildwood, so the students are able to thoroughly learn about the swine and cattle industries. However, we do not have the facility to raise chickens which is one area the students appear interested in. If I am fortunate enough to receive this grant, I would devote it to providing my students with a hands-on opportunity to experience the poultry industry.

I would like to propose a grant request for five hundred dollars. These funds would be utilized within the Wildwood Middle High School Agriculture Department to establish a poultry program. To begin this project, I hope to spend a portion of the funds on two egg incubators and fertilized eggs to fill these incubators. The students have been interested in seeing our calves and piglets transform into mature animals, so I believe establishing our poultry program from eggs will really intrigue the students. While the eggs are incubating, the students will have the opportunity to learn about the poultry gestation cycle. This will provide an opportunity to candle eggs, which will give the students the chance to see the embryos transition into fully developed chickens. I hope to select a variety of fertilized eggs since this will give the students an opportunity to experience the diversity of the poultry industry. For example, we could compare the developmental characteristics of a broiler chicken, which will be utilized for meat, to that of a laying hen. My goal for this project is to give the students an array of experiences that relate back to the poultry industry.

Once the incubation portion is complete and the eggs have hatched, I plan on raising the chickens in our barn at Wildwood. This would allow the students to see our chicks slowly transition into roosters and hens. During this process the students will have the chance to learn about the welfare of chickens, which relates back to regulating their overall well-being. Once the chickens have reached maturity the hens will produce eggs, which the students will have the ability to take home. This will

showcase what is needed to properly raise a chick into a healthy, productive hen. The remaining portion of funds would be spent on an enclosure to keep the chickens safe and secured. For the enclosure, I would enjoy having an area where the chickens could get away from the outside elements but also an area for them to free-range. This could be accomplished by purchasing a prebuilt enclosure or the supplies to build our own. I would prefer to purchase the supplies, because this would give the students another opportunity – building construction and wood working.

The poultry program at Wildwood Middle High School Agriculture Department will provide the students with countless opportunities. Our students show livestock at the Sumter County Fair, in addition to the Florida State Fair. With that being said, our chickens will also be eligible to be shown. This will give the students the experiences needed to properly maintain and handle chickens. The FFA is an intra-curricular organization built into all agricultural courses and this organization offers a wide variety of contests that allow the students to strengthen their leadership and communication skills. One contest in particular is Poultry Evaluation, which is where the students participate in various aspects of the poultry industry. For example, evaluating actual chickens to grading portions of consumable meat. The common breed utilized in this contest is the White Leghorn, so I plan on incorporating some of these birds into the program. These birds will serve as a reference to the students as they prepare for one of our highly sought out contests.

My goal is to provide my students with as many opportunities as possible. The field of agriculture is slowly losing interest in our younger generations, so giving the students these experiences will turn them into knowledgeable consumers and citizens. If I am selected to receive this grant, I will devote these funds to ensuring my students have a better understanding of the agricultural industry. This will be possible due to the raising of our own poultry from fertilized eggs into healthy, productive chickens. I have included a detailed list of costs that would be associated with establishing the poultry program at the Wildwood Middle High School Agriculture Department. The proposed end date would be at the end of this school year; however, this is an ongoing project for future students to experience.

**Costs Associated with The Poultry Program at Wildwood Middle High School
Agriculture Department**

2 – Little Giant Still-Air Incubators (<https://www.tractorsupply.com/tsc/product/little-giant-still-air-incubator>)
\$49.99 Each

20 – White Leghorn Hatching Eggs (https://www.mcmurrayhatchery.com/leghorn_hatching_eggs.html)
\$68.20 for 20 Eggs

12 – Black Australorps Hatching Eggs (https://www.catchatoriiifarms.com/FERTILE-CHICKEN-HATCHING-EGGS_p_44.html)
\$21.00 for 12 Eggs

12 – Barred Plymouth Rocks Hatching Eggs (https://www.catchatoriiifarms.com/FERTILE-CHICKEN-HATCHING-EGGS_p_44.html)
\$21.00 for 12 Eggs

TRIXIE Pet Products Chicken Coop (https://www.tractorsupply.com/tsc/product/trixie-pet-products-chicken-coop-with-a-view-glazed-pine?cm_vc=-10005#)
\$279.99
**The funds may also be utilized to purchase the supplies to build our own enclosure.

