

Mid-Schoolyear Report, December 31, 2022

Online Tutoring Program

The kindergarten teachers enroll their lowest performing students in our Online Tutoring Program. The 2022-23 school year is the first year we are serving all kindergarten classrooms – and for an entire school year. Armed with iPads, our volunteers go into the classrooms to lead group sessions using the award-winning Khan Academy Kids software. Whether these children are ones who did not attend pre-school or simply did not grasp what was being taught quickly enough, the letters of the alphabet and/or other concepts passed them by. We are working to help these little learners fill in the gaps and get caught up!

Our Online Tutoring Program gives free reign to a child's desire to learn! During the tutoring, the children learn to navigate the very iPad they are allowed to take home at the end of each school day. The children feel confident and empowered when they earn the right to take the iPad home. It is gratifying to see the children want to take the iPads home. They want to learn!

The Learning Path – led by Kodi the bear – is perfect for home use as it personalizes each child's learning experience. Students are presented with activities, books, educational videos, and creative lessons that allow them to learn each skill at the appropriate level and at their own pace. Parents who are not tech savvy do not need to worry about anything. The Internet connection is cellular and does not require WI-FI. Everything except the learning software has been removed from the iPad. Even though we sent instructions and a helpline phone number home for the parent, the kids learn quickly to smooch around the iPad and are self-sufficient.

We started one year ago with 4 iPads. We now have 26!

Program cost \$10,818

Classroom Supplies

Did you know teachers (on average across the U.S.) spend about \$750* a year of their own money on classroom supplies? One of our goals has been to provide the supplies needed to make learning time more effective – and to build confidence in our young learners!

Aussie Pouches

Chair seat pockets not only “dress up” the classrooms, they make lesson-to-lesson transitions more efficient. Students store their folders, pencils, etc. in pockets on the back of their chairs. All seven kindergarten and first-grade classrooms needing seat pockets were furnished Aussie Pouches. Made of denim, these seat backs have multiple pockets, are washable, and will serve our young students for years to come!

Cost \$2,638

Headphones

It seems the teachers never have enough working headphones for every student. Earbuds do not work well for kindergartners and first-graders; little ears need over the ear headphones. One kindergarten teacher spent \$400 of her own money so all her kids would be equipped.

Cost \$501

Colorful Plastic Bins for Headphones

It seems the book bins rarely store books. Instead, they are used mostly to store headphones and loose papers. Most classrooms desire a row of colorful, interlocking bins. Summer volunteers label the bins with student names.

Cost \$208

Quiet Feet

Tennis balls on chair legs reduce the noise level in the classroom! They also make it possible for little people to slide chairs around, as needed.

No cost.

Only volunteer hours.

Under-chair Baskets

Under-chair baskets are an inexpensive item. However, installing them takes time! It is as if you need to be an engineer to install the baskets where little feet will not inadvertently break them. Thankfully summer volunteers handle the installations.

Cost \$93

Many volunteer hours.

Supply Refurbishment System

Colorful supply bins filled with supplies in each kindergarten classroom will:

- . cut down on classroom interruptions by allowing teachers to direct students to needed supplies,
- . dress up the classroom, and
- . make it possible for volunteers to refurbish needed supplies.

Cost to establish this supply refurbishment system and provide other needed classroom supplies \$989

Backpacks with supplies for K-5

Thanks to Vicky and her team at Optum RX, over 40 children had backpacks and supplies to start the new school year! This is the third consecutive school year Vicky and her Optum RX team have helped our students. Thanks for your continued support!

Estimated value of donation of products \$775

Total Classroom Supplies \$5,204

Early Learning Teaching Tools

Every child should feel confident in his/her ability to learn! These teaching tools were requested/inspired by the classroom teachers and can be used for years to come.

3-D Geometric Shapes

Every first-grader now has three-dimensional shapes they can hold and explore when they learn about cubes, cylinders, cones, pyramids and prisms. Geometry is part of their math curriculum. Being able to hold and compare the shapes develops spatial sense.

Cost to continue this school year \$187

Math Manipulatives

All kindergarten and first-grade classrooms now have colorful, easy-to-interlock cubes! Each child has a set of ten colorful cubes to help them see and solve math problems. The teachers wanted – and received – the same two colors for all students in their classroom.

New this school year \$947

Generation Genius Science Videos

All first-grade classrooms have access to science video lessons. Generation Genius videos were made in partnership with the National Science Teachers Association to engage, educate, and inspire kids in science. We are proud we could fund this subscription teachers were paying out-of-pocket.

Subscription cost \$135

Bananagrams Letter Tiles

We converted the My First Bananagrams game into bananas for classroom use. We included just the right number of letters for first-graders to tile their spelling words. With the bananas less full, the kids do not spill them all over the classroom. But it wasn't just a matter of removing tiles as we didn't have enough of some letters. Tiles that come attached for game purposes had to be cut to have enough single letters. Every first-grader can now practice spelling with their own banana.

Cost to continue this school year \$372

Etch-A-Sketch Freestyle

Forget the two white buttons – that is now retro. The Freestyle Etch-A-Sketch comes with a handy stylus that's easy to grip and move. Each kindergartener and first-grader can write/draw,

shake to erase, and write/draw again. Teachers report this is an engaging way for kids to learn to hone their fine motor skills while learning their alphabet and spelling.

Every kindergartener and first-grader can now practice writing, easily erase, and practice again.

Cost to continue this school year \$1,130

Sandpaper Letters

Testing this new teaching tool.

Cost \$39

Total Early Learning Teaching Tools \$2,810

Science Teaching Tools

Science is important in Jacksonville – especially with the Mayo Clinic constantly growing and new industries coming to town. Before children finish elementary school, we make it our mission to inspire them to pursue further science education. We want all fifth-graders to have a blast (pun intended!) in science.

Our home, Dinsmore Elementary, is a science magnet. While the school is not a dedicated science magnet, science is emphasized by, among other things, having a full-time fifth grade science teacher.

This teacher understands the needs of her students. She was a student at Dinsmore Elementary and has returned to teach and inspire. Her roots go deep in understanding the community as her mother also attended this same elementary school.

We've focused our fifth-grade science efforts on teaching tools. Science is better understood with experiments and classroom displays.

We thank our sponsors for providing teaching tools that will inspire students for years to come!

Sun, Earth, Moon Systems Model

Our kids get the sun, the earth, and the moon!

Ms. Zortea will use this new model to demonstrate the Earth orbiting the Sun, the Moon orbiting Earth, and Earth spinning on its axis – all correctly geared to show each month! Using a light, which represents the sun, the model will also teach fifth-graders night and day, the seasons, and eclipses.

Cost \$341

Giant Inflatable Solar System

Cost \$41

MagMover ClikMagnets (100) & Pole

Estimated value of donation of products \$300

Total Science Teaching Tools \$682

Kid-Sized Materials

We collaborate with kindergarten and first-grade teachers to create kid-sized materials that align directly with their classroom curriculums. The teachers use these materials in the classroom and allow the children to take them home. Kids love owning their own learning materials.

We thank our paper sponsor, Walmart River City Marketplace, and our cadre of volunteers who cut and assemble the materials. They make this all possible!

Dot-to-Dot Pads

To date, 13 dot-to-dot pads are in production. In the past, kindergarten and first-grade teachers have been purchasing dot-to-dots with their own money and said they never had enough. We created our own quality (even if we do say so ourselves) dot-to-dots and bind them according to the level of difficulty. That way, teachers can select just the right skill level for each child. While the kids think the puzzles are only for fun, they are improving fine motor skills needed for writing and learning number order (or mastering the alphabet).

Annually

In total, 2,130 pads are assembled each school year using 11,715 sheets of paper.

As of December 31, 2022

All 13 dot-to-dot pads have been delivered to the teachers. Already, 2,130 pads were assembled using 11,715 sheets of paper.

Volunteer hours attributed to assembling dot-to-dots:

4 hours for the 6 books delivered only to kindergarten

8 hours for each of 7 books delivered to kindergarten and first grade

= 80 hours

Spelling Pads

New for the 2022-23 school year! Every first-grader receives 30 spelling pads during the school year. Each pad features the ten words the children are learning that week. Simple sentences show how the words are used. The pads also include manuscript lines and fill in the blanks to help students spell and write.

Annually

In total, 3,300 pads are assembled each school year using 27,335 sheets of paper.

As of December 31, 2022

Already 23 spelling pads have been delivered to the teachers. That is a total of 2,530 pads assembled using 20,955 sheets of paper.

Volunteer hours attributed to assembling the spelling pads:

4 hours for assembly of each of the 23 spelling pads

192 hours to create the spelling pads (specialized skills)

12 hours to sort and distribute the spelling pads

= 296 hours

Kindergarten Wordbooks

Know & Grow Wordbooks measure 5½" x 4¼" – just the right size for small hands. Each book contains only the newest sight words the children are introduced to that week. Children enjoy writing their names on their books, copying each of the sight words, coloring the sight words, and seeing each of the 174 words in the context of a sentence. The kindergarteners can practice reading the books over and over again. Teachers report sight word retention has improved with these little books!

Annually

In total, 3,100 colorful booklets are assembled each school year using 8,850 sheets of paper.

As of December 31, 2022

Wordbooks were not created for the first three weeks of this school year as there was a new kindergarten curriculum. Already 20 workbooks have been delivered to the teachers. That is a total of 1,740 pads assembled using 4,875 sheets of paper. The wordbooks at the beginning of the year have fewer pages.

Volunteer hours attributed to assembling the wordbooks:

4 hours for assembly of each of the 20 spelling pads

= 80 hours

Word Searches

Our newest product! Each quarter-of-a-page word search features the ten weekly words first-graders are learning to spell. Children enjoy word searches and solving the puzzles makes them better spellers. These are ideal for small moments of time as they can easily be stopped and started.

Annually

In total, 3,300 puzzles are cut each school year using 825 sheets of paper.

As of December 31, 2022

All 30 puzzles have been delivered to the teachers using a total of 825 sheets of paper.

Volunteer hours attributed to the word searches:

4 hours for assembly and packaging of all the puzzles

32 hours to create the word searches (specialized skills)

16 hours to proof the newly created word searches

= 52 hours

Kid-Sized Materials Contribution

Volunteer hours sum 508

Total Contribution \$14,133 includes the cost of the paper, supplies, volunteer specialized skills, etc. Regular volunteer hours listed above were not assigned any dollar figure.

June 1, 2022 to December 31, 2022

Total Contribution \$33,647

Total Volunteer Hours 1,993