

WO #62



# Elmer G Biddick

## CHARITABLE FOUNDATION

11623 State Road 80 Livingston, WI 53554  
Phone (608) 943-6363 Fax (608) 943-6365  
[www.biddickfoundation.com](http://www.biddickfoundation.com)

4-16-14- left message for Josh Tarrell - Advised him that the Report would be on Agenda for next foundation meeting. etc

Brian D. Nodott - President  
Rachel L. Jordan - Vice-President  
Bradley D. Biddick - Secretary/Treasurer

Daniel B. Biddick  
Peggy J. Biddick  
James W. Neuenfourt  
David Warner

### GRANT APPLICATION. Due Dates April 15<sup>th</sup> and November 1<sup>st</sup>

Date: 04/11/2014

Name of Organization (must match IRS 501(c)(3) designation) HIGHLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT

Address 1030 CARDINAL DRIVE

City, State, Zip HIGHLAND, WI 53543

Phone 608-929-4525

Person Responsible for the Grant JOSH TARRELL

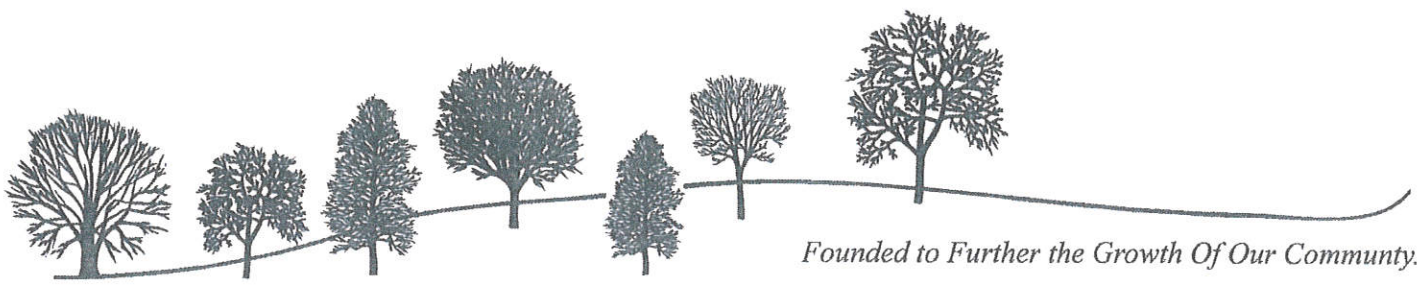
Position in the Organization SCHOOL PRINCIPAL

Organization's Purpose THE HIGHLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT ASPIRES TO BE A CHALLENGING AND EXCITING SCHOOL DISTRICT IN WHICH STUDENTS ACHEIVE.

This application must include your organization's latest IRS Letter of Determination showing exemption and public support status. (Not required for units of Government & public schools).

Grant Request \$ ANY LEVEL OF SUPPORT IS WELCOME. CONSTRUCTION WILL OCCUR ONCE FULL FUNDING IS AVAILABLE.

-Application continued on next page-



Founded to Further the Growth Of Our Community.

Attachments to this grant that we find useful in considering your grant request.

A. Supporting information.

1. Specific use of grant.
2. Time schedule.
3. Other sources of funding.
4. Describe the effect of postponing your request to another time.
5. Describe who, when, how and where will the effects of this grant be felt.

B. Your organization's history, activities, services, and composition. (Videos are of limited use.)

Applications are considered in June and December of each year. The corresponding deadlines are April 15<sup>th</sup> and November 1<sup>st</sup>. Concise grants that address the needed information are appreciated.

**PLEASE SEND THIS APPLICATION TO ELMER G BIDDICK CHARITABLE FOUNDATION:**

Biddick, Inc.  
11623 State Road 80  
Livingston, WI 53554  
Phone (608) 943-6363  
Fax (608) 943-6365

## **Describe the reason for this grant request**

Highland School District is seeking funding to build and equip a greenhouse on the school grounds. The Highland Greenhouse Learning Environment project is an exciting opportunity for our community, providing the students and staff of our district with an innovative and state-of-the-art greenhouse learning laboratory. In this 24 x 40 foot heated greenhouse we can take learning beyond the classroom walls and encourage hands-on inquiry and observation using curriculum and equipment that demonstrates modern advancements in the fields of agriculture and natural sciences. This applied learning will enhance our student achievement in the subject areas of math and science, foster academic and vocational skills in the Highland student body, and offer a forum for discussion of solutions to real world problems relating to environmental health, global and local food systems, and individual health and nutrition. The greenhouse learning environment is an essential part of providing innovative, exciting, and highly engaging education for K-12 students in the Highland School District.

### **Project Goals:**

- Goal 1: Build a greenhouse learning laboratory that is utilized by staff, students, and community members for both educational and community projects.
- Goal 2: Enhance agricultural and natural science education through the use of innovative and state of the art technology.
- Goal 3: Provide a productive, engaging, and enjoyable learning environment for both students and staff.
- Goal 4: Meet Common Core State Standards and Next Generation Science Standards through greenhouse projects that are multi-disciplinary including the subjects of math, science, agriculture, and technology.
- Goal 5: Increase student achievement in math and science as measured respectively by the Renaissance STAR assessment for math and the WCKE Science assessment in grades 4-8-10.

### **A1. Specific use of grant**

Grant funding would be used to contract with a local Wisconsin business, United Greenhouse Systems, Inc., to construct a 24x40 foot heated greenhouse. Additional funding is needed to equip the greenhouse with the necessary supplies e.g. tables, lights, trays, etc. The greenhouse will serve as a learning laboratory where math and science will come alive. K-6 grade students will learn through tending plants, observing and documenting plant life, experimenting, and analyzing data. High school Horticulture and Agricultural Plants courses will conduct more

thorough greenhouse experiments in the following units: *Lights Affect on Plants, Fertilizer: Food for Growth (Cuttings for More), Cloning of the First Degree, and Grafting for Your Table.*

The greenhouse will also be used to enhance environmental science projects within the school's natural areas. Learning propagation practices for native plants will allow students to care for local species and preserve the local environment. The greenhouse offers opportunities to develop entrepreneurial skills by selling plants to the local community through annual plant sale fundraisers. Sales will provide a long-term source of funds for school groups and greenhouse projects.

### Greenhouse Learning Environment Project Budget

Expense Category	Description of Expense	Cost/unit	TOTAL Program Expense	Amount of Grant Funds Requested	District Matching Funds
Salary	Teacher hourly salary for overseeing construction, curriculum planning, in-house staff training & program implementation.	\$25.00/hr	\$500.00		\$500.00
Utility costs	Greenhouse electrical and heating costs	\$/year assuming cold climate and \$0.10/KW	\$1,500-2,500		\$1,500-2,500
Contractual Services	United Greenhouse Systems, Inc. -Materials & Labor to erect (1) 24 ft. wide x 40 ft. long free-standing Ambassador Crown greenhouse with an 8 ft. nominal height and columns & trusses on 10 ft. centers	N/A	\$33,288.00	\$33,288.00	
Contractual Services	WGSN-FIELD Biologist Staff salary for time spent grant writing, developing curriculum, and leading greenhouse education projects	\$14.50/hr	\$725.00		\$725.00
Supplies	Heavy duty greenhouse light fixtures (6 qty.)	\$49.95/ea	\$299.70	\$299.70	
	Seedling heat mats (6 qty.)	\$37.95/ea	\$227.70	\$227.70	
	Greenhouse tables (8 qty.)	\$49.99/ea	\$399.92	\$399.92	
	Plug trays (50 qty.)	\$1.65/ea.	\$82.50	\$82.50	
	Pots (120 qty.)	\$0.24/ea.	\$28.80	\$28.80	
	Potting soil/50lbs bag	\$69.95/ea	\$69.95	\$69.95	
	Shade cloth (10x100 ft)	\$144.00/ea	\$144.00	\$144.00	
		<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$37,265.57</b>	<b>\$34,540.57</b>	<b>\$2,725.00</b>

## **A2. Time schedule**

Highland Greenhouse Project timeline: This timeline is dependent upon securing full funding for the construction of the greenhouse.

Winter 2013-2014: Community and district planning meetings

Summer 2014

- Greenhouse construction begins
- Teaching staff greenhouse project planning meeting

Fall 2014

- Greenhouse construction complete
- Set-up greenhouse equipment, high school agriculture classes
- Begin design and construction of head house by high school shop class
- Begin utilizing greenhouse for educational projects
- Host community and school-wide tours of the new greenhouse

Jan 2015

- Teaching staff greenhouse project planning meeting
- Begin planning FFA and greenhouse plant sale fundraiser

Mar 2015

- Document changes student achievement scores and measure changes in enrollment in elective classes utilizing greenhouse laboratory
- Begin growing plants for FFA and greenhouse plant sale fundraiser

May 2015: Host first annual FFA and greenhouse plant sale fundraiser

## **A3. Other sources of funding**

The Highland School District has applied and is awaiting a response on \$25,000 of funding support for the Highland Greenhouse Learning Environment project through the Monsanto Farmer's Grow Rural Education Fund. While we are optimistic that our project will be selected, this grant is highly competitive with only one district recipient per state.

The Highland School District will support the cost of administrative, educator, and maintenance staff salaries for program activities such as cross-curricular planning meetings and curriculum development, coordinating greenhouse construction and site preparation, ensuring and overseeing use of the greenhouse by elementary, middle, high school classes, tracking the progress of the project and the utility costs of running and maintaining the greenhouse during the school year.

## **A4. Describe the effect of postponing your request to another time.**

Postponing funding this project to another time would be postponing learning opportunities for our students, the future farmers and community members of south western Wisconsin. It would delay our students from having the hands-on educational opportunity to utilize a learning laboratory through which they could strengthen their knowledge in the areas of agriculture and natural science and in which teachers have observed students learn best. Planning within the district and the community for the greenhouse and seeking funding for the project has been a multi-year project in itself. Delaying to fund this project would likely postpone the entire project.

**A5. Describe who, when, how and where the effects of this grant be felt.**

Highland's Principal, Josh Tarrell, and Agriculture Education Specialist, Francis McCauley, will be overseeing the construction, care, and use of the Highland Greenhouse Learning Laboratory. In order to offer the best possible educational opportunities and environment for the 300+ K-12<sup>th</sup> grade students that attend the Highland School district and to remain current with neighboring districts we feel it is necessary to provide a greenhouse laboratory where our students can inquire, explore, and apply principles learned in core subjects, such as math and science, to greenhouse projects. Teachers know that providing hands-on applications of subjects being taught improves student learning and enthusiasm towards the subject. According to the *Methods for Teaching Agriculture* (Newcomb et. al., 2004), laboratories, such as greenhouses, are crucial components to agriculture education. In addition, environment based education programs have been documented to support academic achievement. For these reasons we feel the greenhouse is a necessary component of continuing to improve upon and provide challenging and exciting learning experiences at Highland.

Excitement around the greenhouse project has been growing within our community. Highland has begun developing plans to utilize the greenhouse learning laboratory for educational, fundraising, and community building purposes. The plans include participation of the following:

- High school agriculture courses
- High school science courses
- 6-12 grade field biology program
- Elementary outdoor science program
- Middle school math courses
- Middle school science courses
- Middle school vegetable garden
- Elementary school vegetable garden
- Future Farmers of America (FFA)
- School forest
- Butterfly garden
- Rain garden
- School prairie

**B. Your organization's history, activities, services, and composition.**

The Highland School District serves over 315 students who live within Iowa county and employs 40+ community members who live in southwestern Wisconsin. The Highland School District's vision is we aspire to be a challenging and exciting school district in which students achieve *personal responsibility*, *social maturity*, and *academic success*. In the 2011-2012 school year Highland middle school began a public charter initiative that allowed for staff and students to experience new ways of learning and teaching. The initiative was such a success that the high school and elementary school joined the public charter initiative in 2012-2013. Each year into the public charter initiative has shown great strides in improving student learning opportunities and staff enthusiasm and success.

The greenhouse learning laboratory will ensure that Highland is continuing to provide our students with exciting opportunities for *academic success* with high levels of achievement through authentic, real-life experiences. Highland school district successfully maintains and utilizes many outdoor project based learning opportunities through the school's forest, garden plots, prairie, pond, and rain garden. These projects instill in our students a sense of *personal responsibility* for the natural areas of their school grounds. The greenhouse will afford students a full range of cross-curricular hands-on environmental based learning opportunities year-round.

Additionally, through the use of the greenhouse for community service projects and fundraisers, Highland students and staff will be provided the opportunity to foster relationships among the agricultural and non-agricultural communities within which they live. Student responsibility in fundraisers and community events provides them with the development of a *social maturity* necessary for achievement both within and beyond a school setting. In these ways the greenhouse learning environment fits into our over-all vision and will enhance the exceptional academic offerings experienced by those enrolled in our district.