

Journeys Lutheran School (transportation) Summary Report

Information about the Applicant

The mission statement of Journeys Lutheran School is "Centered in Christ, Journeys Lutheran School prepares students with unique learning challenges to maximize their God-given spiritual, academic, physical, emotional, and social potential." We seek to provide a wholistic education for students with special needs. Our school is growing each year and we have added 7 classrooms over the past 6 years. We will educate 85 students in the 2022-23 school year and plan to continue that growth throughout the coming years. In the same way that Wispact is 'dedicated to providing a broader scope of services and creating more opportunities for improving the lives of person with disabilities across Wisconsin,' Journeys strives to provide a positive educational experience for our students with disabilities, with the goal of moving our students into adulthood with the tools and experiences needed to live independently and be productive citizens. A key component to our program is experiential learning.- Last year, 53% of our student population was considered below the poverty line, and we expect that percent to be higher this school year. Journeys' faculty strives to provide experiences for students, in particular in nature, through multiple field trips during the year, since many of these experiences may be beyond the family's capacity to experience. Funds for transportation to these experiences will ensure the students are able to continue these experiences.

Statement of Need

It is also important for Journeys to provide bussing from the parking lot of Milwaukee Lutheran High School to our campus in Hales Corners.- Our school used to be housed in Milwaukee Lutheran, and this allows our families to continue schooling with us after the move.

Our target population is students in 3rd through 12th grade. We currently have 85 students this coming school year. Journeys has received funding through fundraising efforts to purchase a new school bus last year. We also receive funding for experiential learning through the Siebert Foundation.

The support of the Wispact Foundation is being requested because transportation is a key component to allowing the students to continue these programs. Cost of transportation continues to rise and has the ability to limit our capacity to provide this opportunity. Through the field trips Journeys provides, we seek new experiences and opportunities for our students to enhance their overall well-being. We show this enhancement through projects in the classroom.

Project Goals and Expected Benefits

It is often difficult to quantify goals and measurable objectives for our school, because every student has an individualized plan to allow their goals and objectives to be unique. For instance, students will take a nature hike in the fall of 2022. Each student will take pictures of items in nature that have significant meaning to them. After the field trip, students will learn digital editing of the photos and will research a quote to add onto the picture. Pictures will be framed and displayed in the school during the 'Creative Pathways' event. Our overall goals include minimally one experiential field trip a month. Measurable objectives will be projects students create to identify their personal experience.

Project Implementation Plan

Journeys strives to provide one experiential field trip per month for all students with multiple other experiences per class or student need. In the fall and spring, multiple trips are taken to nature preserves, hiking trails, and accessible playgrounds. In the winter, each class is taken ice fishing. In the spring, 8th graders are taken in small groups on a boat fishing trip, where a faculty member mentors students.

Journeys staff is responsible for activities. A committee of three is responsible for whole school field trips, and all faculty report to the principal. Field trips and experiences throughout the year are documented through classroom reflection work when students return from field trips. This is part of our yearly curriculum.

Evaluation Plan

Evidence will be collected in student artwork and written reports. This culminates at the end of the school year with our 'Creative Pathways' event, which displays the student work.

Budget

Field Trip Transportation Costs	40 miles round trip	\$.62 per mile	Estimating the cost at \$40.00 per month	Total cost = \$360.00
Morning and afternoon pick-up costs	26 miles round trip	\$.62 per mile	170 days	Total cost = \$2,762.00

Staff Recommendation

The grant can be recommended for approval. The costs will provide for transportation and provide access to the experiences offered in the field trips as well as provide access to the daily education received the school. Elimination of these barriers to access provides a direct benefit to the disabled learners and this expense aligns with the initiatives of the foundation.