

Dawson Parent Association

Mini & Mega Grant Program Description

The mission of the Dawson Parent Association is to foster communication, cooperation and positive relationships between the parents of Dawson students and the faculty, staff, administration and Board of Trustees of the Alexander Dawson School. The Mini Grant program is an important initiative in support of our mission and provides support to faculty or staff for creative projects providing direct benefit to the students. Since its inception, the Mini Grant program has provided assistance to every department and division at the school. Its success is a testament to the strong partnership between parents and the school.

During each academic school year, approximately \$20,000 in grant monies is distributed to grant winners according to the criteria set forth below. The maximum award for any single Mini Grant is \$2,000. Additionally, this year, we will again award a "Mega Grant". This grant award maximum will be up to \$10,000.

Mini Grants and the Mega Grant are awarded once a year. Details for applying are listed below:

Applications: Available online or from Division Directors, Division Assistants or DPA Vice-President

Application Deadline: Last Monday in January; Early submissions are welcomed.

Grant Award Date: No later than the last Monday in February.

Action Required: All money granted must be spent by last day of April of the year the award is granted. If not spent, the money is forfeited and returns to the DPA budget for the following school year.

Priorities for funding include projects that are:

- Creative and innovative with a sound educational value.
- Fully incorporated into the regular curriculum.
- Well conceived, with a realistic timeline.
- Supportive of the whole development of the child, such as art, theatre, music, character development, or physical education.
- Likely to actively engage students of all ability levels in learning.
- Designed to impact or change the physical campus to enhance learning, physical activities, character development or aesthetics.
- Not a project that would normally be included in the Dawson operating budget.

Application Requirements for projects:

- May be a project benefiting students from Kindergarten through the 12th grade.
- Serve an educational purpose for a student group, one or more classrooms, a grade level or a school wide program.
- May enhance the whole student through arts, theater, music, physical education, character development, or school spirit.
- May be a piece of a larger, coordinated project that benefits the entire school or an entire division. In the event that a project benefits several departments or divisions, a coordinated request may be submitted asking for an amount that exceeds the \$2,000 per grant limit. In the event of a coordinated request, each division or department involved must submit an individual request documenting how the award will benefit its specific division or department.
- Must be administered by a Dawson employee.
- Cannot be used to pay for faculty continuing education.
- **Applications must be approved and signed by the respective division director and the head of school. Applications that are not signed will not be considered.**
- **Must provide a brief write-up, along with photos, within a reasonable time frame to be shared with the Dawson Parent Community.**