# Innovation Project Application

Library: Ransom Middle School
Project Manager: Crystal K. Roberts
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Name of Project: Under Your Own STEAM in the Cyber Age
Project Amount requested: $1840.75
Scope of the Project: The Ransom Middle School Innovation Center is a large middle school, serving almost 1,500 students. We would like to request technology and equipment to upgrade existing patron-centered services for our school community. Specifically, in the areas of STEAM-based makerspaces, the needed technology will help promote creativity, sequential reasoning and critical thinking via hands-on, peer-guided activities. Additionally, the entire school community will benefit from the addition of much-needed electronics, such as charging stations for devices such as Chromebooks, cell phones, iPads etc.


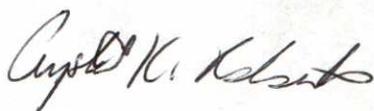What need in the library/community will this project address?
In conjunction with our school superintendent's Vision 2020 program, we as innovation specialists are responsible for exposing students to makerspaces that both spark innate curiosity and enhance knowledge of STEAM-related topics, with an eye to future higher education environs. After consultations with my students, clerk, teachers and school community members, my grant focuses on the areas of science, technology, robotics and engineering. If awarded this grant, Ransom students, teachers, mentors, volunteers and parents will benefit from access to resources related to circuits, robotics, programming/coding, and planning/engineering. As a result, our middle grade students build upon existing knowledge, laying the foundation for more enriched high school, college and workforce experiences. Resources such as the Sphero Minis and BreakoutEdu kits allow students an opportunity to program the devices using Javascript and use higher order thinking to solve puzzles and be creative. To promote our school's culture in the 21st century, our innovation center needs updated technology. Currently, to communicate school news/events, we have a library bulletin board. Modern students are consistently receiving, and often pay more attention to, information presented in a digital format. Our library is a hub for all in our school's community, we are often the "go-to" area to obtain information on various school events. With the addition of a flat screen TV and chromebit, we will be able to offer a new twist on an old service, providing information school-wide in a format desired by today's patron. This year, all our students have chromebooks. Frequently, they need charging while at school. Cell phones are also a vital part of life for today's student. Charging stations are now expected in the outside world. As an innovation center, we strive to provide up-to-date services and resources to all our patrons. This grant would help us achieve our goal. In the words of one of my library assistants, "We would be like a real library now!"


Resources required: Please see attached quote from vendors Amazon, DEMCO and BreakoutEdu.


Activities/Timeline (include estimated completion date): January-February: When the resources become available, I will install and promote the addition of technology, TV, chromebit and charging stations, along with new makerspace resources. I will choose these resources on a rotational basis to be added to our makerspaces menu. I will task my "Lead Innovators", library assistants who specialize in knowing details of specific makerspaces, to become familiar with and guide patrons in using the areas with peer support as needed. I will include challenges at the spaces to promote critical thinking. March-April: I will place more in-depth, extension challenges at the makerspaces to scaffold and build on what students have done thus far. I will work with teachers to coordinate whole class group activities as well as offering spaces and challenges that lend themselves to more individualized and
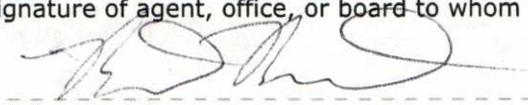
one-on-one, mentor-mentee type of activities.

How will the library sustain this project?  My clerk, my student Lead Innovators and I will encourage participation, demonstrate usage of and supervise students while using the makerspace areas.  The technology and resources will be continually used in future school years.  Based on patron feedback, we will continue to add to and expand these grant materials via fundraising and donations.

Library Director's signature:  *[signature]*          Date:  10-24-17

Signature of agent, office, or board to whom the Director reports          ·Date:  10-24-17

*[signature]*

For PLAN use only:

Approved                          Not Approved

PLAN Executive Director

## PLAN Grant Resources List 2017-2018 for Ransom Middle School

| Vendor | Description | Quantity | Total Price |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Amazon:** | | | |
| | Flat Screen 47-in with Wall Mount | 1 ea. $360.00 & $21.00 | 381.00 |
| | Apple iPad with Case | 1 ea.($330.00 & 25.00) | 355.00 |
| | Chrome Bit Stick w/Keyboard | 1 ea. | 115.00 |
| | Canary Saws 10 pk. | 1 pkg. | 45.34 |
| | Multi-Device Charging Station with Cables | 1 each set | $69.50 |
| | Dual Pack of Ozobots (Black and White) | 1 package | 99.95 |
| | Snap Circuits Pro SC-500 & Arcade Electronics Kits | 1 each ($56.00 & $45.00) | 101.00 |
| | Sphero Minis & Cases | 3 each @ $49.99 & 5.99) | 167.94 |
| | Makey Makey | 2 @ $49.00 ea. | 98.00 |
| | | | No s/h |
| **DEMCO:** | Makedo Toolset and Screws (Add'l & XL) | 1 each @ $125.00, $12.50, $10.00 | 158.02 w/shipping |
| **BreakoutEdu:** | BreakoutEdu Kits | 2 @ 125.00 ea. | 250.00 no s/h |

**TOTAL:  $1840.75**