

2019 Snapdragon Book Foundation: Grant Application

Applications are due by 11:59 pm ET on February 15, 2019. Our application has several open response questions. We strongly encourage all applicants to draft responses in a separate document to ensure that all work is saved.

- **The Basic Info**

Please make sure all information below refers to the individual primarily responsible for this application. We will use this information to contact you.

- School Name *

Newcomb High School

- First Name *

Pamela

- Last Name *

Betts

- Title/Position *

Librarian / Media Specialist

- How long have you worked at this school/organization? *

Currently in my first year 1-3 years 4-7 years 8-15 years More than 15 years

- Additional Info about # of Years at Current School (Optional)

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This is my first year at Newcomb High School Library, previously I taught English and English Language Development classes at Newcomb Middle School for two school years, taught 8th grade English at Kirtland Middle School for a semester, then before that I started out the school

year as the librarian at Tse' Bit Ai Middle School, in Shiprock, NM, and was transfer to the classroom teaching Reading and English for 6th, 7th, and 8th. I had assumed the duties of Librarian in 2010, there at Tse' Bit Ai Middle School, and served in that capacity for 5 years. Before becoming a Librarian I was a reading teacher at Tse' Bit Ai Middle School, in various classes. I have been working in the Central Consolidated School District since the 2003-04 school year focusing on Reading and English.

- Email Address * **bettp@centralschool.org**
- Confirm Email Address * **bettp@centralschool.org**
- Alternate email address

pbetts@frontier.net

- School Mailing Address *

P.O. Box 7927 Street Address Address Line 2 Newcomb City NM State /
Province / Region 87455 Postal / Zip Code

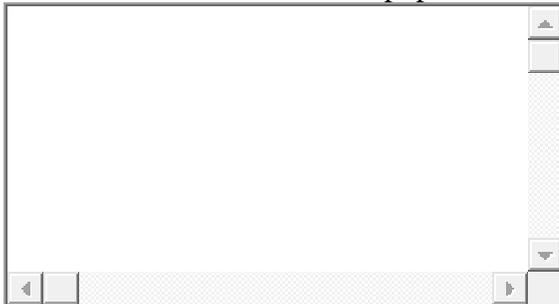
- Country
- State/Province/Region (please only use capital letters) *

NM Maximum Allowed: 2 characters. *Currently Used: 0 characters.*

- Phone Number * ### - ### - ##### 505-696-3417
- School Website Address newcombhigh.org

• The Students

- Please describe the student population served by your school. *



Since our school is located in the Navajo Reservation 100% of our students are Native American. Newcomb High School serves 241 students enrolled in grades 9 - 12. Title 1 calculates that 82.16% of our students are in the "Low Income Percentage". The elementary, middle school, are in a cluster of buildings fairly close together. To get a better view of the demographics of this area I have included the NAVAJO NATION COMMUNITY PROFILE, which, is talking mainly about Arizona but please take into consideration the Navajo Nation is in Arizona, New Mexico and Utah and it is a sovereign nation. Newcomb High School is in New Mexico. One student recently told me that he used to ride his bike to the Dine' Rural Library here in Newcomb when he needed to do research for school but his bike tires are shot so now he must walk about 2 miles if he needs the library after school hours. He's one of the lucky ones; most live over 10-30 miles away on dirt roads that are not maintained. When it is all

said and done our student population is like so many other high schools, students have struggles, and detours, but they all have hopes and dreams for their future.

- Does your school receive Title I funding? * yes
- • What percentage of your students is eligible for free or reduced meals? * 100%
- • Current Library Status * fully automated media center with computer access for students

• • Before You Continue ...

Just a few checks to make sure you're on track to submit a great application!

- Did you closely read the FAQ so that you know what types of projects the Snapdragon Book Foundation will fund? *

Yes. Got it. Twice, in fact. Reading it again now, just to be sure.

- Winners will be announced in May 2019 and checks mailed out in June 2019. If you win a Snapdragon Book Foundation grant, when do you hope to implement your project? *

Throughout the 2019-2020 School Year Summer 2020 Other

• The Project

Description of project related to the mission of the foundation. Please note: projects that include technology-related requests are not likely to be funded unless they express a strong connection to the mission of the organization. For a description of previously funded projects please see the website: www.snapdragonbookfoundation.org.

- Title of Project *

Empowering Opportunity for All; Through Revitalization of Reference and Reading Materials

- Description of Project *

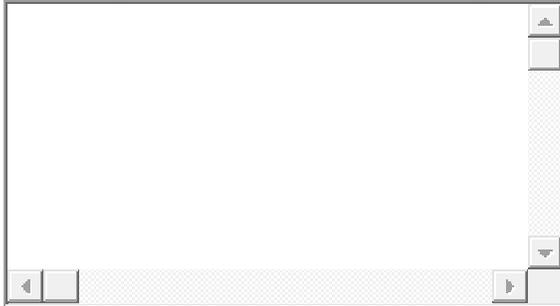
Newcomb High School Library will update pre-2000 reference and nonfiction books with contemporary books and DVD's on current world subjects to give students a clearer view of the world off of the Navajo Reservation, helping them to make better college and career choices. Student's reading proficiency will be increased by providing reluctant and struggling readers with lexile appropriate books to facilitate their increased practice with reading they may actually find enjoyable. Lastly a wider variety of magazines and periodicals will be made available to broaden their knowledge of the variety of opportunities awaiting them.

• The Cost

Please provide the amount requested as well as a description of how the funds will be spent. You may attach a detailed title list if applicable, but it's not required at this point. If awarded, confirmation that funds were spent according to the project outline will be required. Projects ranging from \$500 to \$20,000 have been funded in the past.

• Total Amount Requested * \$ Dollars . Cents

• Description of how funds will be spent *



There will be an Excel sheet along with quotes for the "wish list"

uploaded. I will give a narrative of how the money would be spent as follows: This request is three-fold the first being the one of greatest need is the Reference and Nonfiction section which has many outdated books going back to the last century in the 90's and earlier. While it is true some information does not change there are areas that are rapidly changing in this day and age. The listing is through Mackin as an example but this is not necessarily the exact list that will be used. The list will depend on what needs to be weeded and what does not need to be replaced and a study of our gaps to help complete or at least update the collection. With this list from Mackin it is a mixture of reference, nonfiction, and teacher requested subjects. The total for 144 books would be \$4,144.00, which was only half way through the listings. So for that part of the grant I would like to request \$8, 000.00. The next section is the High Interest and Low Lexile the number of books is 64 with a cost of 1,073.14. This is a fairly complete "wish list" and would be followed closely if we are able to order. The last part of our request is the Magazines and Newspapers this is through a broker firm, W.T. Cox , this "wish list" is very comprehensive because of the remoteness of our school I want our students' exposure to be broaden to many different areas through the most current of publications. This proposal also includes the Navajo Times which would be vital to these students and the community to stay in touch with news of their sovereign nation. The cost for the "wish list" is \$1793.57, which that could be pared down to \$1500.00.

• The Story

We want to know your school and students through this part of the application. Please tell us why you believe in this project and its impact on and importance for your students and school.

• A compelling tale of your students and this project. *



Our students here in Newcomb, NM would not describe themselves as "disadvantaged", some outsiders might consider their remote lifestyle, "disadvantaged" for the 21st century, but however, this lifestyle reflects their culture and traditions. Some families in this community live very closely to how their ancestors lived in the 1800's and early 1900's but with most modern conveniences where available. Some haul their water, some have no electricity, some have no cars, and some choose to live in a traditional Hogan. When it rains here on the Navajo

Reservation transportation is difficult since most of the roads off the main highway are dirt (no gravel), our busses go to using “bad weather stops”, that means the students have to walk through the mud or have a reliable 4 wheel drive vehicle that won’t get stuck in the mud to get to school. True all of the students here at Newcomb High School qualify for free breakfast and lunch so financially the families fall into the poverty category. This community is wealthy in other ways. This community values their elders and most families take care of an elderly parent or grandparent either having the elder live with them or they have the chores to do for them if they are living alone such as chopping wood or hauling water. Many of the young people act as translators for their grandparents thus speak Navajo and English. This area is rich with the skill of rug weaving and several families are world renown for the weaving of rugs from the Two Grey Hills area. Our students know the traditional skills of weaving and beading which has been handed down from great grandmother to grandmother to mother to daughter, if you will the Navajo weavers from Newcomb are the “rock stars” of rug weaving.

Newcomb is located about 30miles south of Shiprock N.M., 55 miles from Farmington, NM, and 50 plus miles from Gallup, NM. There is a small public library in Shiprock, a public library in Farmington, and also one in Gallup, but the two larger libraries are at least an hour away. Locally there is the Dine’ Rural Library that is funded by the Navajo Nation with cooperation with our school district, Central Consolidated School Dist., but it is small and does not have the school specific materials that the students’ need. To illustrate the remoteness of the area, a few years back, Oprah Winfrey came through the area with her entourage, and when she saw a house near the Colorado/ New Mexico border she pulled in uninvited and started asking questions, the question she asked that offended her unwilling host was, “How can you live like this?”, for her she didn’t understand how anyone could have their home far away from city amenities and be happy. What she didn’t realize was she had offended her host by her ignorance of their culture and traditional lifestyle. The area is wide open without tall buildings or traffic lights for miles on end, you can see the weather forming and playing out right in front of your eyes, with dust devils dancing between mountains, mesas, and monoliths, you can actually see 100 miles in all directions from Newcomb, NM.

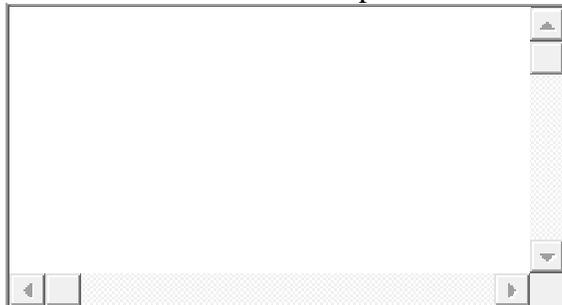
This three-fold project evolved from the urgent need for current materials; the first part is to update informational text and reference materials, the second part is to increase the number of “high interest-low lexile” fiction and nonfiction books to engage the reluctant reader, and finally there is an immediate need for periodicals and magazines in the library. When I took over this library at the beginning of the 2018-19 school year I was unfamiliar

with our collection but as time went on and teachers asked for reference materials I found how limited and dated our collection is, for example, a history teacher asked for the reference material to be pulled for Ancient China and Ancient Rome so her class of 20 could do a research project. As I looked up books in the collection for the students' use I found that there were only 8 on one subject and 7 on the other so there were going to be students without books to use as references. Further investigation found that 80–90% of the informational text and reference material was published pre 2000 and as you well know “times are a changing”. The need for “high interest–low lexile” became evident when most students were tested for their reading lexile and 69% of the students are below the proficient level, which is a concern. As a Reading Teacher, as well as a Librarian I know that the best way to increase one’s reading skill is to practice and practice and with teen boys being the a large number of the reluctant readers the need for books targeting their interest is essential. It would be wonderful to have a specific area where those books were housed to facilitate ease of location so those students would be able to find their books quickly. Finally the need for current periodicals and magazines is a result of budget cuts and apparent re-allotment of funds. In previous years the district has been able to fund the library operating system and magazines through EBSCO, however, this year, with a tightening budget more expenditures are coming out of the individual library budgets, meaning drastic cuts have had to be made, and not as wide of a selection of magazines can be ordered, plus there is no daily or weekly newspaper subscription. Bringing the outside world to our students would enhance their learning and better prepare them for their road ahead. Stephen Krashen has written about the importance of having a literature rich environment, but many in this community have no books or reading materials in the home. Our principal’s goal for the current school years sums up why our library need additional funding, “Our final key goal for this upcoming school year is to increase the amount of outside reading that our students partake in.”

• The Future

Our foundation makes an effort to see firsthand the impact that the grant has on the students of the awarded schools. What is your vision as to how you might show that impact when we visit?

- What would we see or experience on a visit to your school to see the impact of this funding?



The optimum would be a reference section that has updated new interesting books enticing students to explore not just for the research for their classes but for curiosity about the world outside of the reservation. Our students are sorely lacking in background knowledge so they frequently miss out on the

point, just today I suggested to the Theater Arts teacher a charades game for his students and he agreed that would be great but they would have difficulty knowing what advanced subjects were about and would have a hard time acting them out because they just don't have a broad view of the world. I definitely would hope that we would be cracking that shell to open up a brand new (current) world for them. The shelves would be filled with current world subjects and probably added shelves to accommodate the added material. In the fiction and nonfiction I would hope that there would also be added shelves with a separate section for the high low fiction and nonfiction books. This section would be in the center of the library so as librarian I could assist and encourage their pleasure reading. And finally the periodicals would be displayed so all could access current events in their area. Students, staff, parents, and community would be welcome to read and explore a wide variety of magazines, prepared for check out to be taken out of the library. There would be a distinct increase in check outs of all materials. If these improvements could be made it would be wonderful to have an open house and invite the community and all stake holder. Our district library system has the capabilities for inter office loans and we can add patrons from the community who are not necessarily students, this added activity will show the importance of literacy. Most of all you would see the library as the "heart" of the school, not necessarily the quiet ssssh library but one that is the pulse of the school with increased circulation, usage, with academic conversation and the enjoyment of reading.

• The Proof

A letter from the IRS designating the school as a tax exempt 501 (c) (3) non-profit. In certain cases, the IRS will issue an exemption to a larger organization of which the school is a part (i.e. district). The organizational exemption and a photo copy of the school's name within the organization's member directory will suffice. Similarly, if the website entry above clearly shows that the school is part of a larger public school district, you may leave this blank.

You will only be permitted to attach ONE file. If you are attaching 501c3 proof in addition to book lists, etc: please scan all documents into a SINGLE pdf file and upload that single file.

Please note: Do not attach a state (sales) tax exemption form.

- Attach a File *
- How did you hear about The Snapdragon Book Foundation? *
 Snapdragon E-Newsletter Email listserv Grant-finder website/google search Previously Awarded School Other

- If you checked "other" - tell us more!

- Has your school applied for a Snapdragon Book Foundation grant in the past? * no
- • Has your school received funding from the Snapdragon Book Foundation in the past? * no
- • Would you like to receive our e-newsletter a few times a year? It includes notification of winners, highlights from schools who received grants, and foundation updates. (Also, we won't ever send spam and you can unsubscribe easily and at any time). *
- Yes please! No thanks! Already on the list!
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Contents of Uploads

1. W9
2. Navajo Nation Community Profile
3. Budget
4. Mackin Quote (Nonfiction and Reference)
5. Follett Titlewave Quote (High Low Lexile Fiction and Nonfiction)
6. Magazine and Periodicals Quote

Proposal for the Snapdragon Books Foundation Grant	Preliminary Quote	Grant Requested Amount
Mackin-Reference and Nonfiction (144 books, need over 200)	4,144.00	8,000.00
Follett-High Interest--Low Lexile Fiction and Nonfiction reading books	1073.14	1,000
Magazines and Periodicals	1793.57	1,500
Total requested		10,500.00