

Innovation Tank

Empowering the classroom through creative learning

Dream Bigger!

There is a unique kind of magic that happens when a teacher's imagination is met with the resources to make it real.

New: The Innovation Tank

The GIPS Foundation is excited to announce a bold evolution of our classroom grant funding: The Innovation Tank.

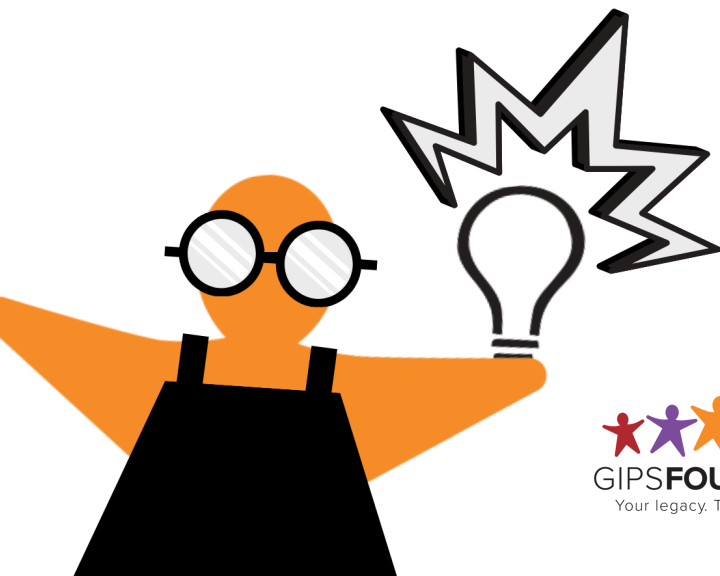
\$5,000 Grant Potential

We have doubled our investment potential from \$2,500 to \$5,000, ensuring our teachers have the resources necessary to bring their most creative ideas to life.

Plan Ahead

The Innovation Tank application is OPEN NOW. We've moved our traditional August timeline up to give you the summer months to prepare your vision.

Visit our website for details!



BIG IDEA

The journey begins with a spark. Share your vision—the kind of project that doesn't just change a lesson plan, but creates an experience students will never forget.



APPLICATION

Bring your creative ideas to life with ease. Our new streamlined application focuses on what matters most: the learning experiences for your students.



PITCH PREP

Finalists receive personalized coaching to help you find your voice, sharpen your presentation, and prepare to share your dream.



ENTER THE TANK

Stand before our "Sharks"—passionate supporters of education—to share your pitch. In the Tank, the gap between resources and needs disappears.



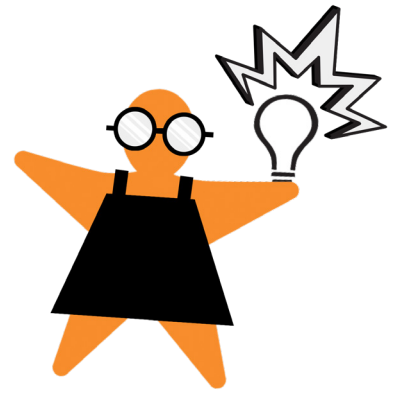
INNOVATIVE LEARNING

This is where the magic happens. With up to \$5,000 in funding, you bring your most ambitious vision to life for your students.

Innovation Tank

The purpose of the Innovation Tank is to empower GIPS educators with the resources to move beyond traditional instruction and implement transformative, high-impact learning experiences that foster student engagement and academic excellence.

The GIPS Foundation awards annual Innovation Tank Grants to fund educational opportunities for students that fall outside of the school district's general budget. Only applicants with a gips.org email address are eligible.



Timeline

- Open - May 11
- Close - September 28 at 4:00 pm
- Review applications - Early October
- Invitations to the Tank - Mid October
- Projects should begin after November 1

Funding Range

Innovation Tank Grants range from \$3,000 to \$5,000.

What to Expect

The Innovation Tank is more than just a grant. It is a collaborative journey designed to bring your most creative ideas to life. From your initial “Big Idea” to the final live pitch, each stage provides a roadmap to help you move from a concept to a \$5,000 grant, helping you bring new and impactful learning opportunities to your students.



The Big Idea

This first step is your opportunity to dream big. Think of this as the brainstorming phase, where you explore the full potential of what your classroom—or even your school—could become.

- **What to Consider:** Ask yourself: What makes this project truly innovative? Does it introduce a new way of learning, or perhaps a tool that bridges a gap for your students? Consider the scale of your vision—this project could impact a single classroom, involve a whole grade level, or even be a collaboration across multiple schools.
- **Gathering Information:** Use this time to research the resources you'll need. If your vision exceeds the \$5,000 grant, start thinking about whether you'll need to secure additional funding or if the project can be scaled to fit.
- **Goal:** By the end of this stage, you should have a rough budget and a general timeline in mind. You are building the foundation for a project that will change the way your students experience learning.



The Application

Once you have refined your Big Idea, the next step is to move from concept to a concrete plan. Your proposal will be uploaded as a PDF to the application portal. We encourage you to be creative, yet professional, in how you present your vision. Collaboration with colleagues is highly encouraged.

What to Include in Your Proposal:

- **Detailed Project Explanation:** Provide a comprehensive look at your project. What will it look like in action? What specific experiences will it provide for your students?
- **Alignment with District Goals:** Connect your project with current district objectives and goals. We suggest researching the GIPS strategic plan or confirming these objectives with your administration to ensure your project supports our shared mission.
- **Detailed Budget:** Clear financial planning is essential for the review committee. Please include:
 - Item descriptions (direct links to products are very helpful).
 - Vendor information (where the items will be purchased).
 - Exact costs, including shipping and taxes.
 - **Note:** If your project involves technology, equipment or physical changes to a building, you must reach out to the IT or Buildings & Grounds departments to confirm your project meets district guidelines.
- **Project Timeline:** Outline a realistic schedule for your project. When will items be ordered? When will the innovative learning begin?
- **Outcomes & Measurement:** Define what success looks like. What specific learning outcomes do you expect to achieve, and how will you measure that growth (e.g., student surveys, assessment data, or project-based rubrics)?

Goal: To provide the review committee with a clear, professional, and well-researched road-map of how the \$5,000 investment will be used to enhance student learning.



Pitch Prep

If your application is selected as a finalist, you won't have to navigate the next stage alone. We provide a supportive coaching process to help you refine your message and feel confident sharing your expertise.

- **What to Expect:** You will work with a coach to sharpen your presentation, focusing on how to tell the story of your project effectively. This is about finding your voice and ensuring your "Big Idea" shines.

Goal: To ensure you are fully prepared and comfortable presenting your vision. Think of this as professional development designed to help you succeed.



Enter the Tank

This is the heart of the program—the live Pitch event. You will share your project with a panel of Sharks who have been selected to help allocate GIPS Foundation funds to our most innovative classroom projects.

- **The Experience:** This is a high-energy, collaborative event designed to celebrate classroom innovation. It is a unique opportunity to showcase the incredible work happening in GIPS and bridge the gap between community resources and student needs.
5 minute presentation
- **The Interaction:** After your presentation, each Shark will have the opportunity to ask questions to better understand your vision, the project's impact, or your implementation plan.
3 minutes for questions and answers
- **The Decision:** The Sharks have the authority to award GIPS Foundation funding during the event. Based on your proposal and the live discussion, they may choose to fund your project on the spot, after a 10 minute review, or request specific revisions to ensure the project's success prior to awarding.

Goal: To secure the funding needed to bring your project to life. As part of our inaugural “Innovation Tank” cohort, you will be setting the standard for creative learning and helping us launch a new tradition of excellence in our district.



Innovative Learning

With the funding secured, you move into the most rewarding phase: implementation. This is where your vision becomes a reality for your students.

- **The Result:** You will integrate your new resources into the classroom. As the project unfolds, we love to see your “Big Idea” in action through photos, student feedback, and classroom visits.

Goal: To deliver high-impact, creative learning experiences that provide students with hands-on opportunities they will remember for years to come.

A Note on Our Inaugural Year

As we launch the very first Innovation Tank, we are excited to embark on this journey alongside our GIPS educators. Please note that because this is our inaugural event, we may make minor adjustments to this guide or the program process as we go to ensure the best possible experience for everyone involved. We are committed to transparency and will promptly notify all applicants of any updates or changes.