

**CORPUS CHRISTI SCHOOL
WETHERSFIELD, CONNECTICUT
REQUEST FOR FUNDING FOR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PLAYGROUND**

Organizational Summary:

Corpus Christi School is committed to the education of children from pre-kindergarten (3 years old) through eighth grade. The school serves 436 children from 21 towns throughout the greater-Hartford area, the largest concentrations of which are from Wethersfield (49.5%), Rocky Hill (18.5%), Glastonbury (7%), and Hartford (6.4%).

To ensure access, Corpus Christi strives to keep its tuition affordable. Through fiscal prudence, fundraising, and other support, tuition is held to a level that is accessible to most families, and scholarship assistance if available to those most in need. This supports efforts to increase socio-economic and cultural diversity of the student body.

The taxpayers of Connecticut have a vested interest in the continued strength and viability of Corpus Christi School as an educational option for Connecticut families. With the average cost per pupil in the state of Connecticut public school system of \$11,711, Corpus Christi families are saving tax payers more than \$5 million per year. This, while CCS families still pay income tax, property tax, and sales tax in the state, sharing the burden of cost for public education.

Finally, through an emphasis on service-learning, in addition to a rigorous academic program, Corpus Christi School benefits local towns and the state at-large by educating socially responsible citizens who will use their unique gifts and talents as young leaders, strengthening the fabric of our communities.

Project Summary:

Corpus Christi School respectfully requests a grant of \$30,000 to support the construction of a new playground for the elementary school. The project is part of an overarching strategic plan to renovate an aging facility, built in 1960, ensuring the health and safety of students and faculty while providing technology and teaching tools relevant to 21st century learning. Indeed, the school community is doing its part: more than \$500,000 has been invested through individual and foundation gifts to renovate classrooms; introduce wireless technology; increase the number of computers available; and upgrade bathroom, administrative, and cafeteria facilities.

The playground will primarily serve students in Pre-Kindergarten through 4th grade (286 students) during school hours. However, we anticipate very heavy use from the 100 plus students who participate in the After-School Program from 2:15-5:30 p.m. each day, providing further benefits to working families.

The lack of resources for large motor skill development and play for recess and the after-school program at Corpus Christi is a considerable deficiency that must be addressed. In its 50 year history, the school has never had a playground. While students and teachers have imaginatively used the "black-top," we firmly believe that we will increase the rate of physical activity, and contribute to the prevention of childhood obesity, if we create a safe and inviting playground. This new resource will bolster the health and fitness of our students and foster children's ability to play cooperatively in the outside, unstructured environment. Indeed, it is in such an environment where children learn to socialize with one another and negotiate challenges.

Students grow into leaders as teams are formed and games are played, patience and communication skills are developed as students wait their turn, and concepts of teamwork and conflict resolution are reinforced as children have to navigate through and solve problems.

In terms of design, the school is working with a national school playground vendor to think creatively regarding maximizing space and giving students options that will distribute them throughout the play area. As well, we are seeking to make the structure accessible. Finally, one of the unique features of our school is the degree to which mentoring relationships are developed between students in the primary and middle school. Therefore, elements that allow older students to interact with younger students – such as play panels – will be very beneficial, particularly in the after-school use.

While the need is great, financial resources are limited. As referenced above, in addition to the playground project, the school is systematically renovating its 50-year old, aging facility. Thus, a grant from the State of Connecticut would help stretch resources and provide critical momentum as we move forward.

The successful completion of the project will address an urgent need and promote physical fitness and well-being among our students. It will ensure that Corpus Christi School continues to be a leader in the education of children in the State of Connecticut, working as a partner with the public school systems to educate the next generation of state and town leaders.

Project Budget:

Playground, Furnished Only	20,166.00
Material Freight	800.00
Factory Authorized Installation	1,800.00
IPEMA Certified Accessible Playground Safety Surface Wood Fiber, approx 50 cy, furnished and installed over owner prepared sub-base	1,750.00
Excavate and Prepare Site to Accept 12" wood fiber	2,400.00
Accessible Play Panels (3)	2,100.00
Remove and Legally Dispose of concrete	1,050.00
Drainage system	3,000.00
Replacement of stairs and addition of ramp accessing site	1,500.00
New Pathways and sidewalks	5,000.00
Fencing	2,500.00
<i>Total</i>	<i>42,066.00</i>