

Teacher's Vision Grant Summary

Employee Name: Matt Herring

School Name: Merriwether Middle School

Year of Implementation: 2025- 2026

Project Title: From Page to Stage: A Picture Book Theatre Initiative

I want to express my sincere gratitude to the Foundation for Public Schools in Edgefield County for awarding this grant. Through the funding provided, I was able to establish a specialized picture book library for our middle school drama program, creating an invaluable resource for our students' theatrical and literacy development.

Since implementation began, our drama students have already discovered the transformative power of these picture books. Students are currently using the collection to practice articulation and explore character voices, bringing new depth and authenticity to their dramatic work. The accessible narratives and rich illustrations in these books have opened doors for students to connect with characters in meaningful ways, regardless of their reading level or prior theatrical experience.

The picture book collection addresses a gap in our drama curriculum. By providing diverse, engaging source materials, we have created an environment where middle school learners can confidently explore character development and storytelling without the intimidation factor that traditional scripts sometimes present. Our English language learners and reluctant readers have particularly benefited from this resource, finding entry points into theatrical exploration that feel achievable and exciting.

As we continue to utilize this resource, we anticipate that students will expand their use of these materials to include script adaptation, collaborative storytelling, and creative writing

projects. The foundation we've established with voice work will support increasingly sophisticated theatrical skills and deeper engagement with narrative structure.

We are profoundly grateful for your generosity and for the opportunities this grant has created for our young actors. The picture book library is already making a meaningful difference in how our students experience drama education, and we look forward to the continued growth and discovery that lies ahead. Thank you for your continued support of innovation in our schools.