

Arrow Education Foundation  
(Located in the Garfield School Building)  
PO Box 730  
Watertown, SD 57201  
882-6399 or 520-2378  
[aef@wtn.k12.sd.us](mailto:aef@wtn.k12.sd.us)



*"Enhancing educational opportunities for students"*

**Arrow Education Foundation  
Innovative Education Grant Application**

Arrow Education Foundation  
PO Box 730  
Watertown, SD 57201-0730  
605-882-6399

**You may complete the grant application electronically, type or print in black ink**

Grant Applicant 1: Keri Tisher	Position: Reading First Coach	School/Dept: Jefferson Elementary
Grant Applicant 2: Donna Elliott	Position: Reading First Coach	School/Dept: Mellette Elementary
Grant Applicant 3: Gerri Ellis	Position: Reading First Coach	School/Dept: Lincoln Elementary

Title of Project: **Author Visit**      Project will begin: **April 24, 2006**      and end: **April 26, 2006**

Amount Requested: (min. \$300 – max. \$3,000) **\$ 2600**      If amount were reduced, would you accept it? **Yes**

**Please use the rubric of Classroom/Curriculum Related Grant Criteria found in the Innovative Education Grant Guidelines to guide your project application..**

1. Describe your project, how it is innovative, and how this innovation follows the curriculum.  
Please note if there is the possibility of replication in your school or across the curriculum.

We have invited John Archambault, the author of many beloved children's books, to come and perform at our five elementary schools in April. He has written books such as Chicka Chicka Boom Boom, Barn Dance, Knots on a Counting Rope, and Chicka, Chicka 1,2,3 as well as many, many more.

Prior to Mr. Archambault's visit we will collaborate with teachers and librarians to read this author's books, read about his life, and generally get students excited about his visit. We have scheduled a performance for grades K-3 and then an additional performance geared toward grades 4-6 in each elementary building. This allows the author

to style his performance to the needs of those grade levels. Following the performance, teachers will encourage students to take what they've learned from this author about writing and use it to help develop their own writing style in school and at home.

We feel this would benefit all elementary school students, kindergarten through sixth grade as well as the staff. It is a unique opportunity to share the love of reading and writing. Our state standards address author studies, writing, and an enjoyment of literature. When John Archambault shares his excitement and passion for reading, it's contagious. We have not had an author of this magnitude visit Watertown in the past.

We're hoping that this motivational author would inspire our PTO's and school district to see the value and benefits of having authors visit our schools. We would like to start a tradition of visiting authors every other year. There are wonderful authors that we would like to provide exposure for our students.

2. Describe how the project will have an impact on student learning and will make a difference in students attaining curriculum goals

Please note if you are willing and ways you are willing to share the success of student learning.

The ultimate goal of reading instruction is to instill a love and purpose for reading. John Archambault has the power to inspire students to catch the love of reading and to express themselves through their own writing. He finds opportunities to write no matter his location or situation. He leaves you wanting more. This makes writing and authors real.

Having a difference performance for K-3 and then 4-6 allows the author to touch on topics and interests more suited to the students' age and goals.

We think this is a wonderful time to promote our schools. What a wonderful memory to leave with our students. We plan to use our school newsletters prior to this event to inform parents. During the event, we would like to invite the Public Opinion and the local radio stations to showcase our schools. This will be a wonderful opportunity to let the public know what is happening in our schools.

3. Explain the evaluation component you will use to measure the project's success.

We will observe the excitement on the faces of our students while they are listening to John Archambault share his passion for reading and writing. We expect to see carryover into the reading and writing activities within the classroom.

Feedback from the teachers and parents through PTO will be invaluable to us as we plan to replicate this type of event. We will ask for feedback on the children's reactions, parents' reactions, and any improvements that need to be made for this type of event.

4. List the specific items and their cost that you are requesting for funding through the foundation.  
You are welcome to attach additional information and purchasing information.

Performance Cost: \$3600 plus cost of airfare, hotel, & meals.

Total Cost: Approximately \$5000 – We are waiting on the total cost of airfare, hotel, & meals.

If this project is requesting additional funding from other groups, please provide information.

The PTO's at the five elementary schools have committed \$2400 (About \$500 per school) for this exciting district-wide project.

Does the principal or director support the grant application? Yes – We are supported by the assistant-superintendent and the five elementary school principals.

Attached is information taken from John Archambault's website about his school visits. See attached.

(For official use: Amount Authorized for the grant )



## **School Visits and Presentations**

John's assemblies move across the grade continuum with rhythm, rhyme, repetition and the joy of language stressed in K-2 assemblies highlighting the well-known book, *Chicka Chicka Boom Boom* and the recently released, *Boom Chicka Rock*.

John, in turn touching and humorous, mixing rhythm and rhyme, extols the power of the imagination, the joy of language, and the wonder of dreams. His presentations are a great addition to Author's Weeks - Meet a Real Author, where he demonstrates bringing words and stories to life, the joy and importance of reading and the power of one's own imagination.

Interspersing songs and stories, John is entertaining and inspiring. In addition to the classic, *Chicka Chicka Boom Boom* and the recently released *Boom Chicka Rock*, John's assemblies are excellent for Red Ribbon Week celebrating the magnificence of the United States, the importance of getting along (conflict resolution), the richness of cultural diversity, the birth of a whale; the magical and wondrous world around us.

### **Assemblies:**

#### **The Magic of Reading, Storytelling, and Song**

**An Author's Beginnings:** A Celebration of Language in Rhythm and Rhyme

**To Make Words Sing:** Poetry and Dramatic Story Telling

**Books Alive!:** Classic stories brought to life to Awaken the Imagination

**My Imagination/My Friend: Bringing Books Alive!** (for the middle elementary grades 3-6) Excerpts from classic and Newberry Award-winning titles along with the author's own original work in dramatic storytelling fashion and form.