PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING AT P.S. 139: YOU DECIDE HOW TO SPEND $10,000

Dear P.S. 139 families,

This Spring 2018 marks our second year of PB at P.S. 139. There are 12 worthy projects on this year’s ballot, and in order to truly reflect the needs and opinions of our community, we need your vote. Every vote counts! Thanks to our school staff and faculty members Irene Varon and Megan Demarkis, Megan Jonynas, and Rachel Coven; our P.A. members Shayla Khan and Arcelia Leal; and all of our volunteers for your help throughout the PB process leading up to voting week. Special thanks to our students. PB at P.S. 139 could not exist without your enthusiasm for civic engagement and your readiness to become active participants in democracy at our school.

Sincerely,

Mary McDonald and Josh Lerner
Principal
P.S. 139

P.S. 139 P.A. Board Member and
Co-Executive Director
Participatory Budgeting Project

IN THIS ISSUE ...

Learn more about the Participatory Budgeting Project organization and Participatory Budgeting process this year at P.S. 139

Hear from Rugby Road Reporter student contributors on projects that they’ll be voting for this year

You decide! View the complete list of 12 projects on this year’s ballot

Visit www.ps139.org for the complete newsletter
PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING AT P.S. 139: TRANSLATING GREAT IDEAS INTO REAL PROJECTS WITH WONDERFUL POSSIBILITIES

BY CLAIRE PEARCE, P.A. TECHNOLOGY & COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

PB at P.S. 139 encourages the sharing of ideas and invites every member of our school community who is a stakeholder in our school's success to join in the conversation. Best of all, our students aren't shy to express their opinions and exercise their vote. Last January, 559 members of our school community participated in our 2018 PB Survey to share their priorities and ideas for how to make our school better. 426 of our survey participants were students! The opportunity to stir up enthusiasm for civic engagement at a young age and give kids a chance experience how their vote can accomplish positive change is happening at P.S. 139, and it's happening through Participatory Budgeting. But how exactly does PB at P.S. 139 work?

From the survey results, over 200 ideas were proposed. A PB committee of parents, teachers and staff first had to identify the ideas that could be accomplished. The ideas were then grouped into categories, and individuals who could help carry out the project were identified. The 200 ideas were distilled into 22 feasible projects. Then the members of the PB Committee, PA executive board, and principal's office voted for their top five ideas, to narrow the list down to the top twelve projects found on this year's ballot. Amazing!

Now it's time to vote. The week of April 16th there will be student voting assemblies where you can learn more about the projects and vote. Please join in the conversation, talk about PB with friends and family, and vote!

ABOUT PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING PROJECT

The Participatory Budgeting Project (PBP) is a nonprofit organization that helps people decide together how to spend money in schools and cities. It was started by P.S. 139 parent Josh Lerner, and is working with schools and governments in New York and across the US.

For more information, visit the Participatory Budgeting Project web site at: https://www.participatorybudgeting.org/
STUDENT VOICES
OPINION WRITING ON THIS YEAR’S PB BALLOT PROJECTS

BALLOT PROJECT #12:
TEACHERS LOUNGE MAKEOVER
BY BINAH HINDS-BERNARD, 4TH GRADER

I think that the teachers lounge should have a makeover because then the teachers could have a nice place to plan work for the students to do. But the one thing is that when they do that the teachers might get a new vending machine and get treats.

BALLOT PROJECT #10:
RADIO SHOW & PODCAST
BY POLLY MORROW, 5TH GRADER

I believe that we should have the Radio Show & Podcast for 4,000 dollars. I say this because students could always benefit from more ways to express creativity during school. This program apparently gives us time with experts, and it should give us important social skills for adult life, such as ability to speak up for our needs. We, as students, require a way to vent feeling and emotion, and this is a way to do so.

BALLOT PROJECT #1: MUSEUM OF MATH PROGRAM
BY SOPHIE SCHECHTER, 3RD GRADER

I think our school should spend the participatory funding budget for the Museum of Math program. The Museum of Math is a great museum because it has a lot of activities to make math more fun. I would like to bring these fun activities to my school because it would be better to have another way of learning math. It would be fun to use math tools and hands-on activities instead of only sitting down and listening to the teacher teaching you math and then writing it in your notebook. Don’t you think it would be way more fun to have different ways of learning math? I think so.
BALLOT PROJECTS
BY OLIVIA BRIZAN, 4TH GRADER

#5 TECHNOLOGY CLUB
I think Technology club is a good club because everyone uses technology. It is important in the world.

#7 CREATIVE PLAY MATERIALS
Who doesn’t like toys, playing? And it’s a good way to donate old toys.

#11 GLOBAL GARDEN
I think the global gardening club is a good club because you learn about nature. Also you get to make a mess in soil.

BALLOT PROJECT #11: GLOBAL GARDEN
BY RUTH COOPER, 5TH GRADER
I believe P.S. 139 should choose the Global Garden option for $1,500. Our little corner of Brooklyn could use a small beauty. A small, bright light in this grey, grey world. What if we have a single light, a single garden to light the way in our community? We can, if you choose this. Food to eat, flowers for more flowers and pollinators to thrive, and hands-on activities for students. Choose this and you can make so many students' days.

BALLOT PROJECTS
BY PAUL MONTERO, 3RD GRADER

#5 TECHNOLOGY CLUB
P.S. 139 needs a technology club because lots of jobs involve technology and a technology club will teach you about technology.

#10 RADIO SHOW & PODCAST
P.S. 139 needs a Radio Podcasts club because anybody recording gets their feelings to express.

#11 GLOBAL GARDEN
It would be nice to have a global garden because all there is outside is grass.
BALLOT PROJECT #6: 
BOOKS & READING REWARDS 
BY RUBY PEARCE, 4TH GRADER 
I think that we should buy books for the classrooms or all grades because often books lose their spines, covers, and pages which can cause hard times reading. Also, some series only have a few of the books, so if you read that series you miss some of the action. And one last thing, for the summer, students stop reading and then in the next grade they aren't prepared and end up reviewing their stuff instead of learning new stuff and then that student falls behind. Oh! And most importantly, read aloud books are also needed.

BALLOT PROJECT #6: 
BOOKS & READING REWARDS 
BY DAMON MONTERO, KINDERGARTEN 
We should choose books because it helps us learn and I like rewards.

READING ROCKS! 
BALLOT PROJECT #6: 
BOOKS & READING REWARDS 
BY ANNIE MACDEVITT, 2ND GRADER 
WHY WE NEED MORE BOOKS: 
- not interesting books 
- not enough levels 
WHY YOU SHOULD VOTE FOR THIS: 
- more books that kids like 
- kids help choose books 
- help students enjoy reading

BALLOT PROJECT #9: 
YOGA, MEDITATION & MINDFULNESS 
BY BRENNA MACDEVITT, KINDERGARTEN

artwork courtesy of Ruby Pearce

artwork courtesy of Brenna MacDevitt
# BALLOT FOR STUDENTS

## Participatory Budgeting at P.S. 139 in 2018

**VOTE ON YOUR TOP 5 PROJECTS BELOW**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>#</th>
<th>Project Description</th>
<th>Budget</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>&quot;Museum of Math&quot; Field Trips - $4,000</td>
<td>1,234</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Back to School Supplies - $4,000</td>
<td>1,234</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Spanish Club $1,000</td>
<td>1,234</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Teaching Assistants &amp; Lunch Leaders - $4,000</td>
<td>1,234</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Technology Club $4,000</td>
<td>1,234</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Books &amp; Reading Rewards - $4,000</td>
<td>1,234</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Creative Play Materials $2,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Bilingual Theater Show $2,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Yoga, Meditation &amp; Mindfulness - $4,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Radio Show &amp; Podcast $4,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Global Garden $1,500</td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Teachers Lounge Makeover- $1,500</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**VOTE FOR 5 PROJECTS:**

**STUDENT NAME:** ____________________________  **GRADE:** ________

**YOUR VOTE MATTERS!**

**PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING AT P.S. 139**

**VOTING WEEK**

**APRIL 16 - 23, 2018**