

TEF Great Idea Grant Final Report

All Thompson Education Foundation (TEF) grant recipients must submit a final report to TEF by **May 31, 2026**. The final report is required. If you do not submit a final report for this grant by the due date, you will not be allowed to apply for future TEF grants.

Name: Christina Cater

School: Bill Reed Middle School

Project Name: Wolf Cave Cafe Leveled Up

Award Amount: \$1,306.32

Objective of project as stated in the grant application:

This year at Bill Reed Middle School in the ILC, we created a life skills class where the plan is to create purposeful opportunities for students to practice skills they will need in life in real-world scenarios. We have created a small business. The students have used the design cycle and critical thinking skills to build the business from the ground up. We have spent a semester learning the ins and outs of starting a business. The students came up with a name and logo for our business. The Wolf Cave Cafe is a drink business for the staff in the building. The students create commercials and digital flyers to send out to the staff to advertise the business. They tally the orders, fill the orders, deliver the orders, and collect payment. The kids get invaluable hands-on experiences learning how to count money, manage profit and loss, and learn how to keep inventory up to date. The students use teamwork, critical thinking, and problem-solving skills to handle obstacles that arise in the production process. It is getting colder, and the students would like to take the business to the next level and offer hot drinks such as coffee, hot chocolate, and apple cider. We will also be starting a cooking unit where the students are learning how to read a recipe, and learning to use fractions and measurement to make treats to add to the order form. In order to level up and give the students the opportunity to grow their business, we will need to add additional items to our inventory.

1. Describe how you implemented your project.

The Wolf Cave Cafe was a huge success. It went further than we even imagined it to go. We used the funds to implement the next steps for our business. We purchased kitchen equipment and supplies to incorporate reading recipes, creating cooking groups, using the baked goods to sell in our business, creating a coffee cart, and ultimately opening our Wolf Cave Cafe live on Thursday mornings and during a teacher work day. The students got valuable social skills interacting with teachers, money counting skills while running the cash register, and more responsibilities when getting to school early to run the cafe.

2. Please provide the results of your project. This information needs to correlate to the "measurements" provided on your original grant application.

The results of the project:

1. Increased functional reading, writing, and math success while completing packets for reading recipes, creating shopping lists, price comparisons online, measuring skills while in cooking groups, and money management while counting the proceeds and running the cash register.
2. Increased social skills and teamwork while running different stations when packing orders and running the live cafe coffee cart.
3. Correlation to Bill Reed's LISA art integration by creating an ILC cookbook to use as a fundraiser to sustain the business this next year.

If you changed your measurements of success, please detail the reason for the change with your results.

3. Did anything surprise you or your students during the implementation of your project?

One thing that surprised the students was their ability to overcome the fear of speaking in front of peers and staff. We had several students who were plagued by fear and anxiety of being in front of the staff. These students created commercials that were sent to all staff. They also came in early and made announcements over the intercom, advertising the live cafe.

4. Please provide a copy of the final budget for the grant (you may attach a separate sheet of paper).

See the attached receipts for the budget.

5. Do you feel the project can be easily replicated in additional classrooms in Thompson School District, and, if so, is there any advice you can share?

I believe the business can be replicated by other classrooms with the support of the administration and access to materials and supplies. We also asked our building principal and the special education administration to purchase a year-long standards-based curriculum to support the classroom portion of the business.

Optional:

6. Comments for the grant committee or TEF board.

Thank you so much for the opportunity to use your funds as a foundation to grow and sustain our business for years to come. We arranged two very successful fundraisers to sustain the business. We had a local business do a fundraiser for us, and then the students created a cookbook to sell to family and friends. Through these fundraisers, the students raised over \$800.00.