

# The Bert Thomas Storytelling Classroom Grant

The Cabarrus Education Foundation proudly supports this amazing storytelling grant for teachers in honor of Bert Thomas, a long-time educator in Cabarrus County Schools. Bert Thomas was an educator his entire life beginning with teaching in Scotland County before moving to Cabarrus County where he served as both a teacher and principal. He retired as principal of Concord High School in 1995.

If you knew Bert, you knew he was a gifted storyteller who always had a 'story' to share with everyone. To know Bert was to know he delighted in making people happy and brightening their day and his stories touched the lives of many people. He was a fascinating storyteller, most of which he created himself, and a quick-witted jokester, always with a wink and a smile. No one was ever a stranger as he made people feel special and to him, they were. He listened to the voices of his students and made them feel special and valued. Their story was his story. Bert Thomas will be remembered for his wisdom as a life-long educator, his compassion for young people, and of course the many stories he told.

The family of Bert Thomas is honored to continue his legacy by supporting the Bert Thomas Innovative Storytelling Classroom Grant to allow teachers and students to share the joy of storytelling as he did every day. Before there was written language there was storytelling. Storytelling can happen across many venues: writing, puppetry, music, oral recitations, art, dance, plays, fine arts, and many other creative aspects to storytelling. Creativity and storytelling--powerful!!

# BERT THOMAS STORYTELLING CLASSROOM GRANT

DEADLINE EXTENDED FOR GRANT SUBMISSION: **3:00 pm on NOVEMBER 1, 2024**

**Grant Purpose:** Creativity and storytelling are powerful! This grant supports teachers as they share the joy of storytelling through a variety of venues: writing, puppetry, music, oral recitations, art, dance, plays, fine arts, and many other creative aspects of storytelling for students to experience.

## Grant Eligibility

Grants must directly impact students' learning and serve the pre-K through 12<sup>th</sup> grade population in Cabarrus County Schools. Preference is given to staff involved in curriculum delivery.

## CCEF Grants Available

For the 2024-2025 school year, the *Bert Thomas Storytelling Classroom Grant* will fund one special opportunity up to \$750.00 for the most innovative storytelling application.

## Grant Requirements

1. All funds must be used during the 2024-2025 school year. The grant recipient will be announced by the end of November with funds made payable to the school.
2. Submit pictures and/or video that represents the grant in action.
3. Submit a final report by May 10, 2025.
4. Acknowledge CCEF classroom grant awards in notice to parents of children who will benefit and submit a copy of communication to CCEF.
5. Schedule a classroom grant observation (as requested) with the Cabarrus County Education Foundation to see the grant in action by notifying the Executive Director **two weeks in advance**.

## Grant Expectations

1. When posting announcements regarding CCEF classroom grant awards on social media posts, please remember to tag CCEF and capture it to send in an email to CCEF.



Cabarrus County  
Education Foundation



@cabcccef

## Grant Guidelines

- If you are requesting equipment or technology, be sure to have a creative project to correspond with the items requested. Although you may use the equipment for multiple projects, select one notable project to highlight for the grant application.

### Grant Guidelines (cont.)

- Grant funds may be used to purchase materials and items from any source. Use of “State Contract” is not required.
- Keep in mind that if you receive a grant and then transfer to another CCS school, your principal has the discretion to decide if equipment purchased with the grant remains with the school or you.

### Application Procedures

1. Grant applications must be complete and received at the Foundation no later than **3:00pm** on November 1, 2024 at 3:00pm.
2. All questions on the application must be answered **and have the signature of the principal** to be considered complete.
3. Submit application via email, mail, CCS Courier, or delivered to Amy Gough via:  
Email: [Amy.gough@cabarrus.k12.nc.us](mailto:Amy.gough@cabarrus.k12.nc.us)  
Mailing Address: Cabarrus County Education Foundation, PO Box 388, Concord, NC 28026  
CCS Courier: Cabarrus County Education Foundation – The Glenn Center
4. To assist in the selection process, we reserve the right to ask for a 15-minute virtual interview. You will be notified through email.

### Application Guidelines

- Applications **MUST** be legible and easy to understand. Please proofread.
- Applications that are detailed and well-written are more likely to be funded.
- Please avoid the use of acronyms or write out the acronym in parenthesis after its first use.

### Grant Evaluation

Grants are reviewed by the selection committee which may be comprised of the following: Chief Academic Officer, Chief Innovation and Technology Officer, Assistant Superintendents of Elementary, Middle and High School, Director of Career Technical Instruction, Director of Exceptional Children, other CCS Staff, Education Foundation board members and community members.

Each application will be evaluated on the criteria outlined in the attached rubric.

### Grant Awards

The grant recipient will be notified by the end of November 2024. Grant monies will be written to the school and presented at the school.

### Questions or Further Information

Contact Amy Gough at [amy.gough@cabarrus.k12.nc.us](mailto:amy.gough@cabarrus.k12.nc.us) or 704.260.5608.