Make the Pitch

Securing 3D Printer Funding from your Principal or School

You have dreams of a 3D printer quietly humming away in your classroom, printing 3D molecule kits for every student, historical artifacts for your ancient Rome unit, or model rockets for next week's lab. Now what?

Funding, right?

MakerGear believes in bringing 3D printers to every classroom and we know that for many educators, funding is the hurdle that keeps them from that reality. To help our educators, we've created a few resources to assist in seeking funding. Here you'll find five steps to create a compelling pitch for your administrators. Let's get started!

1// Take them to the Future

As an educator, it's no secret that you are tasked with preparing your students for the future. But for some administrators, presently bogged down in concerns of annual plans and budget reports, the future can be a very fuzzy concept.

Your first challenge when seeking financial support, is to cast a vision of the kind of future for which you are preparing your students. Give your administrators a glimpse of the increasingly crucial role 3D printing technology is playing in many sectors of our economy. With new applications emerging daily it is evident that students headed into careers in medicine, environmental science, aviation, architecture, and beyond will need to be versed in 3D technology.

With that in mind, consider your audience and choose a few applications to mention in your pitch to help communicate both the current state of 3D printing technology, as well as its future aspirations. You can also visit our blog at **makergear.com** for ideas and inspiration about how 3D printing is changing the world.

2// Set the Stage

How will you use 3D printing in your classroom? Set the stage by outlining a few potential lesson plans to help your administrators see the specific ways this technology will be a beneficial addition to your curriculum.

The best lesson plans will include objectives that achieve both district standards and goals, as well as demonstrate how students gain an educational advantage by having access to the technology.

Educators are increasingly sharing lesson plans and curriculum ideas online. Research what educators in your discipline and age-group are doing with 3D printers, and check out our *3D Printing for Every Classroom* resource for ideas relevant to your situation.

Additionally, consider the key themes you are planning to cover in your curriculum over the course of the year and demonstrate how 3D printing projects will bolster students' learning and retention.

3// Demonstrate Collaboration

One way to instantly increase the appeal in your proposal is to demonstrate the ways a 3D printer, will not only benefit you and your classroom or department, but others in your school or district, as well. If you haven't already, consider working with another educator or team within your school or district that also has interest in incorporating 3D printing into their curriculum. By showing administrators that investing in this technology will have cross-over value and may even strengthen interdisciplinary connections, you can build a stronger case for funding.

4// Show You've Sought Out Other Sources

If your school district allows you to seek outside grants, applying to additional sources of funding can communicate that you are serious about the project. Take a look at our *3D Printing Grant Guide for Educators* for a great list of organizations that may be a match for your funding needs. Even if the monetary amounts are small, they still make a difference and build a case that you are dedicated to getting a 3D printer or lab in your classroom.

5// Detail the Financial Need

Make sure you can clearly demonstrate the specific ways funding will be used for the hardware, software, and materials you'll need to successfully run your 3D printer or print lab. Here are the major things to account for:

3D Printer - How many printers will you need for your purposes?
Computer - Will you need additional computers for your print lab?
Design Software - Will you use a free program (such as Tinkercad) or will you need to purchase licenses for paid software (such as Simplify 3D)?
Filament - Have you estimated how many spools of filament you'll need and the cost/spool?
Future - Depending on the number of machines you purchase, it's always a good idea to create a line item in the budget for potential upgrades or mainetence down the road.

We Wish You Well!

We hope your presentation is successful and that your school administrators catch the vision you share to bring 3D printing to your students. Here at MakerGear, we want to help you succeed. If we can be of any assistance to you as you are planning your pitch, or if you would benefit from receiving a print sample to use in your presentation, please be in touch with us! We'd love to hear from you.

Contact Us

MakerGear is committed to making superior products for educators and students. For more information or to learn how to bring a 3D printer to your classroom, we'd love to hear from you.

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