

Grant Name: Theme Park Project

**Purpose of the Grant:** The "Theme Park" project aims to integrate STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) concepts with fundamental economic principles through an interactive classroom experience. Using the game Roller Coaster Tycoon, 4th graders will learn about force, motion, and the types of energy while engaging with concepts like budgeting, supply, and demand as they design and manage their own theme park.

Grant's Date/ Time Frame:

December 1, 2024/ Month of May

Teacher Sponsor/School: Emily Kenney & Elizabeth Ptaszek-Templeton

Outcome of the Grant:

**Demonstrate Enhanced STEM Understanding:** Students developed a deeper understanding of fundamental scientific concepts, including forces, motion, and various types of energy, specifically as applied to roller coaster design.

**Grasp Core Economic Principles:** They were introduced to and gained practical experience with economic principles such as budgeting, resource allocation, supply, and demand through the management of their virtual theme parks.

**Increase Engagement and Knowledge Retention:** By integrating technology (Roller Coaster Tycoon) with educational standards, the project made learning enjoyable and relevant, thereby increasing student engagement and improving the long-term retention of scientific and economic knowledge.

**Cultivate Critical Thinking about the World:** Ultimately, the project inspired students to think critically about real-world scenarios and how various concepts intersect in practical applications.

Students were able to share what they learned with their peers, parents, Gilles-Sweet staff members and administration in a showcase at school.