Project: Best School Dance

Student Instructions

**Introduction**

Student Council is a representative group of students who have been proposed and elected by their peers to represent their views and raise issues with the Senior Managers and Governors of their school (School Councils, 2006). The purpose of Student Council is to provide leadership, and to serve the student body, the school, and the community (Landrum Middle School). They are part of the democratic process within school and getting involved in a student council is a great way to begin learning about the democratic process in action!

**Task**

Working together with your group, you will use algebra to help plan the best class party within the student council’s budget. There are three major decisions that need to be made: food vendor, party rental, and DJ. Once you have made a decision on each item, your group will work to prepare a presentation for approval by the student council, school principal, teachers and parent.

**Instructions**

* Each group will research three local vendors. The purpose of the research is to find the cost effective to make the most of the budget.   
  How much is the cost of \_\_\_\_\_\_? (Food vendor, party rental, or DJ).   
  Consider the budget that the student council has and how many people will attend.

The research should include several aspects of (Food vendor, party rental, or DJ):   
 For Example: Food Vendor group has to consider table rentals, food and drinks.

* After deciding the best three local vendors, use algebra to set up an equation for the total cost of using each local vendor. Identify the variables. For example: the Food Vendor group has the variable *p,* the number of people, and Party rental and DJ groups have the variable *h*, the number of hours.
* Solve the equations proving justification for each of your steps. Select the best choice of local vendors for your group and support your choice using mathematical concepts and evidence.
* If your school has a student council, interview the members to discover what major projects are being worked on. What are the main budget-related decisions that need to be made? What are the variables involved? What needs to be addressed in order to find a solution? Could algebra help solve the problem? How?
* The group will create a professional presentation at the conclusion of the project. The presentation would be given to the council members, school principal, teacher, and parents. The purpose of the presentation is to convince them that each decision is sound.

**Collaboration**

Compare your algebraic equations and solutions with another group. Discuss any differences. Work together to ensure that both groups have the algebra set up and solved correctly. Then, share your research about your student council.

Project Rubric

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| Score | Content |
| 40-50 | Your project appropriately answers each of the problems. Your algebraic equations are set up properly. The step-by-step solution to each equation is given.  Your project correctly identifies which vendor is the better choice for the party and justifies the decision mathematically. |
| 30-40 | Your project answers each of the problems. Your algebraic equations are set up and step-by step solutions are given. Minor errors may be noted.  Your project identifies which vendor is the better choice for the party and justifies the decision mathematically. Minor errors may be noted. |
| 20-30 | Your project attempts to answer each of the problems. Algebraic equations are attempted and solutions are given. Major errors are noted.  Your project attempts to identify which vendor is the better choice for the party and justifies the decision mathematically. Major errors are noted. |
| 10-20 | Your project attempts to answer some of the problems. Some algebraic equations attempted and solutions are given; however, little to no work is shown. Major errors are noted.  Your project attempts to identify which vendor is the better choice for the party but does not justify the decision mathematically. Major errors are noted. |
| 0-10 | Your project did not attempt to answer any of the problems. No work is shown.  You don’t identify which vendor is the best choice. |

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| Score | Presentation |
| 40-50 | Your project contains information presented in a logical and interesting sequence that is easy to follow.  Your project is professional looking with graphics and effective use of color. |
| 30-40 | Your project contains information presented in a logical sequence that is easy to follow.  Your project is neat with graphics and effective use of color. |
| 20-30 | Your project is hard to follow because the material is presented in a manner that jumps around between unconnected topics.  Your project contains low quality graphics and colors that do not add interest to the project. |
| 10-20 | Your project is difficult to understand because there is no sequence of information.  Your project is missing graphics and uses little to no color. |
| 0-10 | You did not complete the project.  Your project has no graphics and no color. |