

Progress and Innovation Grants – 2004-2005 School Year

Parent Partners in Reading

Author: Connie Grumdahl

School: Forest Elementary

Children succeed in reading when they are supported at home. This grant provides funding to teach parents how to support their children's reading at home. The project pulls cooperation from within the school, Hennepin County Libraries, volunteers from St. James Church and Title I.

Thinking About Being Healthy

Author: Cindy LaVan

School: Robbinsdale Spanish Immersion School

With childhood obesity becoming a national epidemic, this grant funds a project that makes kids active participants in learning about their nutrition and exercise. It relies on cooperation from parents, food service, teachers, and school support staff.

Extra, Extra Write All About It!

Author: Kris Haagenson / Beth Huntley

School: Zachary Lane Elementary

To be a successful writer, kids need to learn to write in different formats. This grant funds the production of a student newspaper while teaching kids basic journalism skills. Mentors from the journalism field will compliment the teacher-lead instruction.

Bring It On!

Author: Amy Derwinski

School: Highview Alternative Center

At-risk students face an array of problems that need support from community services. This grant funds the development of a support program that teaches self-advocacy, coordinates the community service programs and provides access to these services. This grant relies on the cooperation of staff, local community programs and student leaders.

Getting Ready to Read History

Author: Brenda Damiani

School: Robbinsdale Armstrong High School

Kids read best when they learn to read from a variety of reading materials. This grant funds reading and support materials that teach reading strategies through US history. This project involves teachers, the professional development committee and the Minnesota Historical Society.

AP Access and Equity

Author: Brenda Damiani

School: Robbinsdale Armstrong High School

Taking away barriers so all students have access to Advanced Placement classes is the goal of this grant. By targeting the recruitment of highly motivated low income and minority students, this grant seeks to increase their participation in the AP program.

Using Technology to Teach History

Author: Jill Kind

School: Robbinsdale Cooper High School

Expanding the use of a current teaching tool while teaching history is the goal of this grant. Graphing calculators are used in math, but this pulls the calculator into history by creating timelines, flashcards and expanding on functions students currently use. Pulling together the math and history departments make this grant successful.

Project Countdown

Author: Patrick Smith

School: New Hope Elementary

By incorporating hands-on activities, class instruction, field trips, guest speakers and class projects and presentations, this grant will help improve literacy, mathematics and science skills. Project Countdown will focus on the science unit, Motion and Design, and teach students to appreciate how science can be used in solving practical problems.

Hands Off Science, when Hands On is dangerous!

Author: Cathy Kurvers

School: Robbinsdale Spanish Immersion School

Kids learn better through "hands-on" experimentation. But when hands-on is dangerous, kids can learn just as much by keeping their hands off. By expanding upon the science unit, Crystals and Powders, the goal of this grant is to increase students understanding and knowledge in this specific core science area.