

Hands-on Learning Grants – 2010-2011 School Year

Community Literacy

Author: Monica Potter

School: Early Childhood Family Education

Approximately 150 children between the ages of birth to five, currently reside within a large apartment community in our district. The majority of these children are part of families without transportation.

It is our desire of our staff to provide on-site facilitated Parent-Child Interaction opportunities in collaboration with this apartment company. We will provide parent education and a two-day preschool to 3-5 year old children. We believe that early exposure to quality early childhood programs leads to children attaining kindergarten readiness skills.



MATHLETES

Author: Beth Overstad

School: Noble Elementary School

Mathletes will use a multisensory approach to supplement the existing elementary math curriculum. Multisensory techniques are recommended by the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics. The newly purchased material will add music, movement, and visual aids to the teaching of math.

The materials will be used to help students who are struggling to learn the basic math facts of addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division. These basic facts are essential to the development of higher level math skills. The building instructional coach will provide teachers training in the use of the materials.



Listen Up

Author: Marsha Klimes

School: Meadow Lake Elementary School

Teachers in grades 1, 2, and 3 will utilize listening center equipment and material which includes cassette/CD players, MP3 players, headphones, books, cassette tapes, CDs, and storage units in their classrooms as part of research based, balanced literacy instruction.

All students in the participating teachers' grade levels will have access to the equipment and materials. These centers will provide the flexibility for students to work in small groups as they listen to one book together or as individuals reading appropriately leveled books. Increasing fluency and comprehension for our students is the primary goal of this project.



Using BrainPOP.com to Enhance and Support Social Studies and Science Curriculum

Author: Kara Johnson

School: Forest Elementary School

BrainPOP is a web-based program that has been proven effective in motivating all students and increasing student achievement. It can be used in numerous ways, from introducing a new lesson/topic, to illustrating complex subject matter.

With BrainPOP, students will be learning through the use of highly entertaining animated short films, which can be followed up with interactive on-line quizzes, writing exercises and other activities. The content is aligned to state standards, and is searchable. Although all subject areas will benefit, our focus will be science and social studies, areas lacking in student interest, achievement and curriculum resources.



Power Up with Netbooks

Author: Mary Jane Adams

School: Lakeview Elementary School

A recipe for Twenty-first Century Learning! Mix one group of fifth graders with six motivating Netbooks, quality planning, instruction, and video production. Gently stir in core content knowledge in math and reading. Blend small group and one-to-one instruction with videos creatively produced by students and teachers that demonstrate research-based teaching methods. Your result will be media and technology literate students with increased capacity in reading and math.



Kindle Reading Project

Author: Paul Amundson

School: New Hope Learning Center

The Kindle will enhance reading instruction for our students with disabilities by providing an adaptive device designed to eliminate or minimize some of the physical and cognitive barriers to reading that they face on a daily basis. We believe that using Kindle in our reading program will help to improve our students' phonics, vocabulary, fluency, comprehension and communication skills.



STAR Enrichment and Expansion

Author: Kristine Kelly

School: Robbinsdale Adult Academic Program

Begun last year, the STAR reading reform initiative is still in its fledgling stages in our program. Targeting intermediate-level readers, STAR uses research-based assessment and instructional strategies to address the alphabetic, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension issues that hold learners back from achieving high school completion and moving on to post-secondary education and training. Due to the nature of the type of instruction and the grouping needed to address multiple levels of learners, this project requires materials and teacher collaboration time beyond that is normally allotted.



Technology in 7th Grade Math Classrooms

Author: Tamara Lawson

School: Plymouth Middle School

We live in the 21st Century and need resources to provide a cutting edge education for our students. Today's students were born in the age of technology. Many of which are familiar with facebook, mySpace, texting and skypeing, pod casting and more. They should be taught using technology that they will be expected to be familiar with as adults.



The interactive SMART Board, SMART Response 32 Clicker System, SMART Airliner Wireless Slate and the SMART document camera are necessary to update the instruction of our math students so they can have the tools and the expertise to excel and compete with the rest of the world.

Peer Leadership Coaching Program

Author: Heidi Chiodo

School: Cooper High School

This grant will support the training of 80 Cooper High School Peer Leadership Coaches in grades 9-12. Student coaches will be given 12 hours of coach training and then assist other students to improve student learning. Student coaches will meet community volunteers from the business and education community who use coaching in their work.



Coaches and the students receiving services will be surveyed to assess how coaching has impacted their life and used to identify the effectiveness of the coaching program. With the pending budget cuts, there may be less staff available to meet the needs of the students, this program directly utilizes the resources currently in the school. This program creates a win-win situation for students and staff by providing leadership development through student education.