

# Chrome Books (A New Way to Research History)

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*Classroom Grant*

***Lewis & Clark Middle School***

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***Nels Jensen***

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# Application Form

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## Report Fields

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### Project Name\*

Name of project

Chrome Books (A New Way to Research History)

### Amount Requested

Amount requested on application.

\$1,000.00

### Grade Level

Please select grade level below.

Middle School (7-8)

### Primary Subject Area

Please select the primary subject area of your grant.

Social Studies

### School

Please select your school from the list below

Lewis and Clark Middle School

### Number of Students Served

Please enter the number of students that will be served by this grant.

135

### Project Cost

What is the total cost of your project?

1116

### Statement of Need

Please describe the need for this project. For example, how will this project impact student learning?

History education is being taught in a much different way than it ever has been. No longer is a history class based around a "sit and get" method. Not only is memorizing names and dates boring (for all), it is ineffective! Because the historical content is out there (in the cloud and easily accessible), our focus should be finding, analyzing and interpreting the information available to us. A big problem for my class is being

able to access credible information in a quick and timely manner. Students today need the tools to conduct research, and one tool that seems to fit the bill perfectly are Google's Chromebooks. Chromebooks allow our class to more effectively cover historical content, and we can go more in depth! Not only has the history instruction improved, but I am able to teach the class proper research methods all the time! In my class, we are involved in a nation-wide competition called National HIStory Day. At the core of this project is an intense research project. What I have learned from my students is they have no trouble finding information. They do, however, have trouble finding credible sources that support their thesis. Good research techniques need to be taught, Chromebooks in the class offer me so many more "teachable moments" with students who are new to historical research. The four Chromebooks I have currently are awesome, but the complaint I get from the students, is that we don't have enough! Now that we are in the midst of the National History Day project, it would be fabulous to have a few more Chromebooks available.

## Primary Goal

Please describe the primary goal of the project and how it blends with School District 2 goals and curriculum.

My primary goal is to use technology to teach history as it should be taught. We are dealing with students that have a wealth of information at their fingertips, and asking them to memorize what's in their text book is futile. We should be asking them to find credible information and use it effectively to "back up" their point of view on a subject. The third learning domain of our district's 8th Grade U.S. History learning objectives states, "The learner will demonstrate an understanding of relevant and reliable sources of information and how to analyze, evaluate, and apply information for a specific purpose". This is exactly what the Chromebooks can help me accomplish.

## Project Description

Briefly identify the major activities and materials involved in your project.

The four Chromebooks that we have are used daily in my classroom. So often students ask me questions about historic subjects that I can't answer. Now, individual students can answer those questions on the fly. Not only that, but we, as a class, can ask the student researching the topic where they got that answer from. Was it ask.com? Not really a credible site, is it? Check elsewhere. The Chromebooks are also being used extensively while we are researching and creating our National History Day projects (which we have just started). I also have an online section of my class that uses Schoology.com. Our classes are involved in discussions and blogs constantly. What I also envision happening in my class would be "center" days. Where I could split the class up into a few small groups, having one group using the Chromebooks for research, or working on quizlet or a schoology assignment, another group working on a primary source activity, while another group is with me getting more intense and in-depth instruction. Centers are used all the time in elementary classrooms, but barely at all in middle school. I would like to change that in my room! So, these Chromebooks would be used for day-to-day research on whatever subject we will be studying, on our NHD project, and when we have centers in the class. Four Chromebooks just isn't quite enough to serve the population I have for centers. With four more, I'm sure I could make this happen!

## Professional Development

If your project includes professional development how will it improve student performance?

I will not require any additional professional development. I was involved in the TILT program for the last three years, which has given me several "tools" that I could use with the Chromebooks. Next year, I plan on attending the "Tech Cadres" to stay up to date on new "tools" that I might be able to use in my class. Does this require anything from the Education Foundation? No... but please understand I'm never going to stop learning how technology can be used effectively in the classroom!

## Project Timeline

When will you implement your project?

Again, the four Chromebooks that I have in my class, are used daily, . I am sure that another four would get used daily as well. What would be exciting for me, is to use them more in classroom instruction and with centers. With four Chromebooks and 25-30 students, it can be tough, with eight Chromebooks, implementation would be easier and more effective.

## Plan for Evaluation

How will you evaluate student outcomes for your project?

Last year, my evaluation plan was to look at a National History Day bibliography from 2014 (with the assistance of four Chromebooks in the class), compared to 2013. The project will not be completed by the time this application is reviewed, so I will have to get back to you on that. I can say, that I've already seen a difference in what students look for as far as credible sources are concerned. Now that we are into the thick of our National History Day projects, I do feel the students are better prepared. One way I could evaluate progress is to look at test scores from this year and last. I experimented a bit more with quizlet this year, and if am lucky enough to have four more Chromebooks, I will set up quizlet centers. If you're unfamiliar with quizlet, I like to think of it as "drill and practice" in the form of a game. Students eat it up! It's almost like they don't know they're studying. With more drill and practice over essential terms, my test scores should improve!

## Project Budget

Please explain how the funds from this grant will be spent to support your project goal. You can either type or upload a project budget to show how funds will be used. Please identify other funding sources if applicable.

If the total amount of the grant (\$1000) was given, I would still need an additional \$116 to purchase the fourth Chromebook. The administration at my school was more than willing to cover the additional amount so this technology could be utilized in the classroom.

## Supervisor Approval\*

I have received approval from my supervisor to apply for this grant.

yes

## Attachment 1

Please attach any photos, pages from catalogs, or other documents below. This is completely optional.

ChromebooksJensen.jpg

## Attachment 2

## Attachment 3

## File Attachment Summary

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### ***Applicant File Uploads***

- ChromebooksJensen.jpg

