

Classroom Research and Reading Materials

Classroom Grant

Mr. Kane's Classroom

Mark Kane

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Application Form

Report Fields

Project Name*

Name of project

Classroom Research and Reading Materials

Amount Requested

Amount requested on application.

\$539.70

Grade Level

Please select grade level below.

Primary (K-3)

Primary Subject Area

Please select the primary subject area of your grant.

Language Arts

School

Please select your school from the list below

McKinley Elementary

Number of Students Served

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

66

Project Cost

What is the total cost of your project?

850.86

Statement of Need

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

As a part of Lead 21, our new reading curriculum, my students are learning to do inquiry projects. In a nutshell, students ask questions of nonfiction texts and spend time researching the answers to those questions. Our new curriculum has fantastic nonfiction resources with which my students begin their research. Many times, however, a student asks questions of the text that are unanswered in the standard

curriculum. We have attempted to use the school library, with some success. Library nonfiction resources, even in elementary libraries, are often beyond a 1st grader's reading ability.

Also, I have found that students become exponentially more engaged when they "find" a new resource that connects into the theme of L21. (Of course, they do not usually realize that I'm "planting" these additional readers into centers and bookshelves.) At other times, I choose to be more direct. My struggling readers often need clear direction and easy resources to read. I want to be able to hand a resource to a student without waiting for library time.

Secondly, my lowest readers struggle to read at the lowest level of books that Lead 21 offers. Our first grade 'intensive' books are too difficult for my lowest readers. I need a reading resource that engages students at their level, especially struggling readers, and has the flexibility to grow with them.

Primary Goal

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

Within the mission "to educate individuals of all ages to become caring, competent, and contributing members of the community and world", our district has adopted the Common Core State Standards (www.billingsschools.org). To this end, I would like to purchase three subscriptions:

- 1) A three-year subscription to www.readinga-z.com
- 2) A three-year subscription to www.raz-kids.com
- 3) A three-year subscription to Scholastic News.

Please see the section below for a description of the project and its connection to our school district's goals and curriculum.

Project Description

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

First, I am asking for funds to purchase a 3-year subscription to Reading A-Z. Reading A-Z is a website (<http://www.readinga-z.com>) that has printable and projectable books for the classroom. These books will be a valuable supplemental resource to our new reading curriculum. They connect directly to the common core state standards; they are leveled from pre-kindergarten through 5th grade; and, they are rich in science vocabulary.

Second, I am asking for funds to purchase a 3-year subscription to Raz-Kids. Raz-Kidz.com is a digital offshoot of Reading A-Z. This engaging digital tool 'gamifies' reading. Students are encouraged to 'level up' in reading skills through reading books and taking comprehension quizzes. It is iPad- and web-based, allowing students to read from home, in a way that connects directly to classroom work. Students can record themselves reading and I will be able to monitor their fluency and decoding -- even books that they read at home.

As a side note, my daughter's kindergarten classroom uses Raz-Kids. I have watched her engagement from home. As a parent, I love the connection between reading at home and at school. I love seeing the enthusiasm she has for this reading tool.

Finally, I have secured funding for one year (through www.adoptaclassroom.org) for a subscription to Scholastic News. This print resource is excellent for current events and social stories -- both connect into our Lead 21 curriculum and into the common core reading standards. My goal is to get funding for two more years for this social studies resource. However, I believe I can get this funding through AdoptaClassroom.org. I am not asking the Education Foundation to fund this part of the project.

Professional Development

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

While this project does not include funds for professional development, it should be noted that I have received two years of professional development in common core reading, through our coaching program. I am also in the second (of three) years of professional development through TILT. I have numerous professional supports in place, which will enable this project.

Project Timeline

When will you implement your project?

I will purchase the subscriptions this summer for the 2014-2015, 2015-2016, and 2016-2017 school years.

Plan for Evaluation

How will you evaluate student outcomes for your project?

We use a variety of assessments for reading. Principally, we use the Lead 21 Benchmark assessments to assess academic growth. We also corroborate data from Lead 21 with DRA assessments.

However, much of the inquiry that happens within the Lead 21 framework will be supplemented by this project. I expect that my students' inquiry projects will show richer content and understanding. This will be a project-based outcome (and therefore more difficult to assess year-to-year). Project-based learning, however, develops conceptual mastery, logical reasoning, and depth of knowledge.

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.

Reading A-Z: \$269.85

Raz-Kids: \$269.85

Scholastic News: \$311.16

Total: \$850.86

Requested from the Education Foundation: \$539.7

Already Funded through AdoptaClassroom.org: \$103.72

Seeking funding through AdoptaClassroom.org: \$103.72

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.

[Unanswered]

Attachment 2

[Unanswered]

Attachment 3

[Unanswered]

File Attachment Summary

Applicant File Uploads