

# Connected Collaboration

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## *Collaborative Classroom Grant Application*

### ***Eagle Cliffs***

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Billings, 59105

O: 4062816226

### ***Miss Linda Frey***

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# Application Form

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## **Report Fields**

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### **Project Name\***

Name of Project

Connected Collaboration

### **Amount Requested**

Amount Requested

\$3,348.00

### **Grade Level**

Program Area of Request

Primary (K-3)

### **Primary Subject Area**

Please choose the primary subject area.

Technology

### **School**

Please select your school.

Eagle Cliffs Elementary

### **Applicants\***

Please list the educators collaborating on this grant.

Miss Linda Frey

Mrs. Leslie Jimmerson

Mrs. Courtney Niemeyer

### **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?

3,348

## Statement of Need

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

Technology has transformed society and it can do the same for our children's learning. With this grant, we would empower our students with a set of iPad Minis and a collection of cross curricular learning apps and subscriptions. In a classroom with two students per device, children can be self-directed learners. Students can access, analyze, interpret, use, and share information in an engaging and powerful way. We have witnessed this power first hand.

Last year, our teaching partner, Courtney Niemeyer, taught a class of kindergartners with one to one iPads. The results were astounding. Her experience proved that even the youngest students could not only use the latest technology but could achieve high levels of learning with the tools. Those kindergarten students exceeded all expectations. For instance, all 22 of her students could identify the letters, were able to segment and blend phonetic sounds, and could fluently write the capital and lowercase letters. Further, 15 of the students were reading above grade level. Of those 15 above grade level, 8 were reading an entire year ahead of grade level expectations. In mathematics, all the students showed proficiency in adding and subtracting with numbers to 10 and most were engaging in problem solving well beyond a kindergarten level.

Courtney looped with her students up to first grade. We see her students achieve and progress on a daily basis. The students in her class have shown that they can proficiently, eloquently, and with a bit of first grade spunk use technology to write and publish ibooks, record voice memos, reference QR codes, take photos and videos, create artwork, collaborate, troubleshoot, problem solve, present their learning, and more. The sky's the limit with her students. We want that level of learning for all our first grade students at Eagle Cliffs.

The three of us collaborate often. We design and implement lessons together, we are certainly an effective team. When we reflect on lessons and discuss student gains towards common core standards, Courtney's students are outperforming the other first grade students. Since we collaborate closely, time and time again, we notice the difference in lesson implementation is the access to devices. We beg and borrow devices whenever possible. However, we can not give our students the level of purposeful technology integration that her students experience daily. If we were awarded this incredible grant, we would purchase 12 iPad Minis for students in our classrooms. We would be able to implement the tried and true cross curricular technology integration program that has proved so effective in our partner's classroom.

Purposeful technology integration increases student engagement, provides students with meaningful, immediate feedback, and allows for differentiation. This powerful combination creates an ideal learning environment. The technology of two students to one iPad will allow us to cultivate learning potential previously untapped in these young learners.

## Primary Goal

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

If awarded this grant, we will purchase twelve iPad Minis. This purchase would put our classrooms at two students to one iPad, allowing for innovation and dynamic learning. Our children will still do all the traditional and important primary developmental activities like paint, color, participate in dramatic play, build, etc. The iPad Minis will be integrated into lessons where and when the use of the technology will enhance the learning objectives. No matter what the subject area or objective, the use of the iPad is so effective because of three key components: increased engagement, immediate feedback, and differentiated instruction. Our primary goal is to collaborate as a first grade team to build and implement dynamic lessons that help us grow as educators and, more importantly, increase student learning. With the technology tools and our commitment to collaboration, we not only want our students to be 21st century learners, we want them to be 21st century leaders.

## Project Description

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

We will be able to use the iPad Minis for a multitude of needs. With Courtney's two years of experience in a one on one environment, she has a strong list of apps that align with our first grade curriculum. The apps cover important foundation skills in math, reading, spelling, and science. Further, she has learned how and when to differentiate and sequence the learning with the apps. Because of our ability to closely collaborate with someone who has already taught with iPads, we have an inside track to integrating the devices effectively.

One of the major activities we hope to implement with the iPads is inquiry based learning. Inquiry learning projects are cross curricular, student led, meaningful research projects. Again, Courtney is a part of the Primary Interactive Inquiry Project funded by the Foundation. If awarded this grant, we can as a collaborative team, not only benefit from the work of PIIP but contribute to its continued innovation.

With inquiry learning and new digital tools, a principal challenge for teachers is to juggle the new responsibilities and manage a learning centered classroom. We will work as a collaborative team to develop and analyze our instruction. We will create a support network to increase student learning and improve our own instruction.

For instance, one of our first grade inquiry units this year was about the Earth's natural resources. Currently, we have several fiction and nonfiction books on this topic. However, if our students had access to more devices, we could provide the students with educational videos on the topic, additional articles from National Geographic and World Book, even more books on the topic from our Reading A-Z subscription, and the ability to Skype or Facetime with real experts in the field. The iPads take the inquiry learning project from interesting within our four walls to powerful and without boundaries.

Further, the iPads provide a dynamic platform for students to present, publish, and share their learning from the inquiry projects. We know the increased number of devices would enhance teacher collaboration on our first grade team. Additionally, the devices would increase student collaboration and sharing among our three classrooms. Again, we foresee the ability to expand learning beyond our four classroom walls.

Engaging our students in meaningful interactive inquiry projects is our method for meeting rigorous common core standards and helping our students achieve high levels of learning. Using technology tools and the inquiry model for teaching, this project will empower students, teaching them not only what they are suppose to learn but how to learn and continue learning.

## Professional Development

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

In tandem with TILT and Cadre, our professional development will also come from our close collaboration with Courtney Niemeyer. We have her by our sides to monitor and troubleshoot daily lessons and activities. We all have experience operating iPads and implementing the technology as needed, but Courtney's experience with one to one devices is distinguished and effective among School District 2 teachers and students. We have her support and experience to implement the iPads into lessons effectively. Further, since this project focuses not only on student learning but on collaborative teaching, this project will benefit us professionally by giving us the opportunity to collaborate more effectively with our teaching partner. One of the most exciting things about this project is that, with the same tools, we as teachers can continue to collaborate and grow alongside our students. Connected collaboration will benefit EVERY first grader at Eagle Cliffs Elementary this year and beyond.

## Project Timeline

When will you implement your project?

Currently, with only a few Ipads per classroom, we have limited abilities to reach each student, which is why we are asking for the additional Ipads to reinforce and differentiate our lessons. The students are eager for more individualized support and enhancement in their lessons, so the implementation would be as soon as possible. This provides the best opportunity to reach the most students.

## Plan for Evaluation

How will you evaluate student outcomes for your project?

The evidence of academic growth will be evident in Developmental Reading Assessment scores, writing complexity, and the ability to cross-text share with peers. We will be able to analyze and evaluate our data in our frequent collaboration meetings.

## 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.

budget.png

If the Foundation is able to fund the Ipads for this project, we will personally supplement the minor details. For instance, we will find funding for apps that would enhance student learning in our classrooms and any updates and maintenance that the devices might require.

Please see attached budget for specifics.

## 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.

## Attachment 2

## Attachment 3

## File Attachment Summary

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

- budget.png

## Grant Expenditure Plan

Project Title Connected Collaboration School Eagle Cliffs First Grade     

Budget Items	Function	Proposed Budget
1. Materials & Supplies	-12 iPad Minis, \$279 a piece when ordered with school district high volume purchasing -Protective cases and screen protectors for iPads, \$22 a piece (our principal has agreed to purchase these if we are awarded the grant)	\$ 3,348 \$ In Kind
2. Professional Development	-Collaboration with and instruction from our teaching partner who is experienced with one on one devices -Implementation coaching from our school district's technology integration specialist	\$ In Kind
3. Year Long Subscriptions	Raz-Kids (Reading A-Z) - \$198 Reading Rainbow - \$59	\$ In Kind
4. Applications for all devices with classroom set licensing.	Splash Math - \$99                      Letter School - \$60 Math Bingo - \$19.99                  Sight Word Bingo - \$19.99 Word Wizard - \$29.99                Additional Learning Apps - \$100 Again, if awarded this grant, our principal has agreed to use money from our school's budget to purchase the apps needed to enhance this project.	\$ In Kind
<b>Total Budget</b>		<b>\$ 3,348</b>