

Differentiated Learning for Diverse Learners

Collaborative Classroom Grant Application

Sandstone Elementary - 4th Grade

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Application Form

Report Fields

Project Name*

Name of Project

Differentiated Learning for Diverse Learners

Amount Requested

Amount Requested

\$3,500.00

Grade Level

Program Area of Request

Intermediate (4-6)

Primary Subject Area

Please choose the primary subject area.

Language Arts

School

Please select your school.

Sandstone Elementary

Applicants*

Please list the educators collaborating on this grant.

Josh Haber

Jenny Lueck

Jodi Ervin

Vicki Thompson

Number of Students Served

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

86

Project Cost

What is the total cost of your project?

3500

Statement of Need

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

Sandstone Elementary is one of the 22 elementary schools in the Billings Public Schools and one of the six elementary schools in the Heights. Sandstone is a wonderful school with amazing students, but funding to provide appropriate interventions, staff, and the technology needed to help provide differentiated instruction for our students seems to be inadequate. For the sake of numbers and comparison only, we will look at a similar school in the Heights along with Sandstone's numbers to see where the inadequacy may lie. We will call this school, School B. According to the most recent demographic information, our population is 490 students with 19% of those students having a diverse ethnic background. School B's total population is 520 students with 17% of the students having a diverse ethnic background. When looking at the free and reduced lunch percentages from the month of February, School B's percentage of students that qualify for free or reduced lunch is 49.04% and Sandstone's is 45.11%. School B qualifies as a Title I school based on this percentage, but Sandstone does not. As a Title school, School B is entitled to monies that help provide adequate technology, staff, and interventions for their students. Sandstone Elementary has the need, but not the funding! We are asking for a collaborative set of Chromebooks that our fourth grade students can use for learning.

To help prepare students to become confident and proficient with technology and develop 21st century skills, instruction must start in the elementary grades. With the adoption of the Smarter Balanced Assessment by School District #2, students will be required to show proficiency in keyboarding in order to "write" or express their ideas in a reasonable amount of time. With Chromebooks we could work on web-based typing programs like Dance Mat Typing to introduce basic keyboarding skills and help them become familiar with website navigation. Both skills that will be needed to show proficiency on the Smarter Balanced Assessment.

A collaborative set of Chromebooks will also benefit each teacher by helping to create a differentiated learning environment, or at least provide the medium. The Chromebooks will run any web-based intervention (i.e. IXL, System 44, Read 180, XtraMath, etc.) and provide the students with opportunities for instruction or practice at their individual level. Technology is an integral part of our Lead 21 curriculum. Textbooks, resources, assessments, and tutorials are provided online, but without access they are useless. Pearson Successnet does basically the same for the mathematics curriculum. Chromebooks helping to create this environment will in turn aid in meeting student's individual academic needs, regardless of the student's academic ability.

Primary Goal

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

The purpose of education is to ensure our students are ready and prepared for the future. With the new Common Core Standards, our students need to have core understanding that provides them opportunity to master standards and be prepared to succeed in the modern workforce (Common Core State Standards 2012). The Chromebooks will greatly help our students master the standards and curriculum of fourth grade.

Reference

Common Core State Standards Initiative (2013). Implementing the common core state standards. Retrieve from [HTTP://www.corestandards.org](http://www.corestandards.org)

Project Description

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

With the use of the Chromebooks, our students will be given several opportunities to master skills taught in our classrooms. The following activities will be implemented throughout the school year:

- * Use online sources to meet the demands of Lead 21
- * Practice and master math skills using IXL, Khan, and Xtra Math
- * Use D2Apps Account to publish and present content created in class rotations
- * Use the Chromebooks to teach keyboarding skills and become knowledgeable in website navigation

Professional Development

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

It is our intent to have our fourth graders have daily access to computers in whole group, small group, and on an individual basis. As a result, we are ensuring that our students are prepared for the future by being proficient with technology. We are also meeting their individual academic needs and mastering the standards and curriculum of fourth grade.

Project Timeline

When will you implement your project?

We intend to use the Chromebooks in our classrooms throughout the entire school year. Not only will they be used every day, they will be used several times throughout the day with whole groups and small groups.

Plan for Evaluation

How will you evaluate student outcomes for your project?

Evaluation will be continually ongoing throughout the school year. We plan to use the Chromebooks in our classroom as soon as we get them on a rotation basis throughout the school day. Using the NWEA assessments, our team will be able to evaluate student growth or discrepancies in certain areas. We will be able to tailor the students' learning to meet those needs with the Chromebooks and the above mentioned interventions for mathematics, reading, and language. We will meet once a week to plan what and how we will use the Chromebooks for the following week. We will also discuss our gleans and growths of that week.

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.

The project is asking for \$3500.00. Each Chromebook is priced around \$250.00. We are asking for fourteen Chromebooks.

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

Applicant File Uploads