

First Grade Dream Team Goes Interactive

Collaborative Classroom Grant Application

Beartooth Elementary

Cheryl McCall

Lynda Chase

Beartooth Elementary
Billings, MT 59105

chasel@billings.k12.mt.us

Application Form

Report Fields

Project Name*

Name of Project

First Grade Dream Team Goes Interactive

Amount Requested

Amount Requested

\$3,500.00

Grade Level

Program Area of Request

Primary (K-3)

Primary Subject Area

Please choose the primary subject area.

Language Arts

School

Please select your school.

Beartooth Elementary

Applicants*

Please list the educators collaborating on this grant.

The educators collaborating on this grant are: Melissa Ash, Lynda Chase and Maggie Martinez-Brink. Many other teachers will be able to use the interactive Mimio projector when they are in the classroom. This will include the health enhancement teacher, counselor, reading specialists, foster grandparent, instructional paraprofessionals, jr. field students and student teachers.

Number of Students Served

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

45

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?

First Grade Dream Team is a grant project that is being written together with all four first grade classrooms at Beartooth Elementary. We have teamed up with our teaching partners Kristy Brammer, Celeste Peel, and Cressida Carroll, in hopes of combining our efforts to provide the best technological classroom atmosphere for our first graders.

As we enter the technological age, children are becoming more and more computer savvy. It is difficult for a teacher to compete with technology, and why should we compete? As educators, we need to embrace what is going to teach students best. We need to prepare them for the future by helping them gain knowledge, as well as teaching them to use technology in a positive manner. Students are accustomed to a fast paced, instant answer type of world. They cannot get that with traditional teaching methods. It becomes difficult to capture their attention with conventional tools like textbooks and dry erase boards. This is why we would like to integrate a Mimio interactive projector into our teaching.

By having an interactive white board, more students will be involved in learning. We would not need to stand at the front of the room and worry about not attending to those students at the back. We would be able to roam around and check on the learning of all students. It would increase participation because students are always more engaged if they have a chance to participate in using technology. This would help ensure that all students are engaged, and not just a few. Also, students who struggle always seem to grasp concepts more quickly when they are able to use multiple intelligences to learn. As a group of teachers who work very closely together, we would be willing to collaborate together on how to best implement this tool into our classroom.

We have two staff members who are in the TILT program (Mandy Huck and Traci Piltz). With the support of the TILT members and our "1st Grade Dream Team" we will be sure to use the Mimio to its full potential. We would also be able to then help other teachers implement this technology into their classrooms in coming years. As first grade teachers, we would be able to create lessons that would teach Common Core Standards. Then each of us in our own classrooms could present the lesson utilizing the Mimio Interactive Projector. By having four first grade teachers collaborating we would be able to bounce ideas off of each other and be able to create the best lessons possible for optimal learning to take place. The collaboration and sharing that would take place would be phenomenal for students, not only this year, but for years to come.

Primary Goal

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

The primary goal of the First Grade Dream Team project is to provide our first grade students with engaging and fun ways to learn and reinforce the Common Core standards. The Mimio projector will also give our students another experience using technology to enhance their learning. The Mimio will provide us with software that will align with the Common Core standards we teach. Many classrooms across the United States have already been using this technology and there are numerous ideas for lessons that align with the Common Core Standards in all academic areas including math, science, social studies, and language. We will also be working closely with our team to create and extend lessons and assessments we teach. We also look forward to sharing lessons we create with other teachers who receive interactive white boards in the future, and collaborating with teachers who already use this technology.

Project Description

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

Our project, First Grade Dream Team Goes Interactive, includes providing our students with an interactive way to learn by utilizing a Mimio interactive projector. As a team, we would need to create many of the lessons and activities together to match the Common Core Standards. This would enhance each of our lessons and provide fabulous learning opportunities for our students.

We are writing this grant in partnership with two other first grade classrooms at Beartooth School. Together as a team we hope to practice Common Core concepts while using technology. We want to give the students an opportunity to be up and moving while still being engaged in learning. Together we plan to create and find lessons for the interactive white board that are aligned with our standards. As we become more comfortable with this technology the possibilities will grow and we are excited to see all of the learning that will take place because of this new and exciting piece of technology. There are so many places in the curriculum that the Mimio could be integrated into and also enhanced. For example, in math the students could graph responses to questions in a quick and whole class manner which would help us assess standard 1.MD.4. We could also teach and informally assess standard 1.OA.2 by creating word problems that the students could work with and show their thinking on the interactive white board. Not only would students be showing their skills, but other students would be learning from their thinking and problem solving. Another example that would be easily utilized would be through our new Lead 21 reading series. Each of the themes included in the reading series has big books, games, and leveled readers that can be found online. All of these resources could be used as whole class interactive lessons, as a small reading group activity, or as a supervised center. The students would be able to interactively highlight known words, identify vocabulary words, and work with spelling and story concepts.

All of these activities would be beneficial to our students, especially because Beartooth Elementary is a Title 1 school. Many of the students come from low-income families and they do not have access to the latest technology. We need to prepare them for the future that is filled with technology. By giving the students the opportunity to work with a Mimio on a daily basis, we are helping them become familiar and comfortable with technology.

Professional Development

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

The First Grade Dream Team Goes Interactive grant is a collaboration of all of the first grade teachers at Beartooth. Professional development is crucial to the success of our project. As a Professional Learning Community (PLC), we plan to, as a grade level, create lessons in all areas where students struggle to help make it easier for them to grasp concepts. As a group of teachers that work well together, we will be willing to work together to create lessons to use on the Mimio that will best teach students. We can then share all of those lessons with each other, as well as the rest of the staff. If we receive this grant it will open opportunities for us to collaborate with our fellow teachers. As discussed above, this project is a collaboration of all of the first grade teachers at Beartooth Elementary. If we all receive the grant money then we will be able to have an interactive projector in each first grade classroom.

Project Timeline

When will you implement your project?

If we are lucky enough to be awarded the Education Foundation Grant we would begin the process of implementing the Mimio interactive projector immediately. We plan meet with one of our kindergarten colleagues that currently has an interactive projector for ideas on where to place the white board, how to set it up and the best educational uses of the Mimio. Once the funds are received, we will be ordering the equipment and preparing our classrooms to have the projectors installed. Within a few days we plan to introduce the new technology to our classrooms. This project will not only help the 1st grade class of 2013-14, but all first graders in the years to come. As we become more familiar with the Mimio and the many ways to use it, we plan to use our knowledge to educate our colleagues.

If our First Grade Dream Team is chosen to receive the grants we will be opening up a whole new world of technology, not only for us as teachers, but more importantly, for our first grade students.

Plan for Evaluation

How will you evaluate student outcomes for your project?

This project will be evaluated by the informal and formal assessments we currently use to assess our 1st grade students (i.e. DRA, observations, written tests, etc.) because we do not want to have our students engaged in an extra testing procedure. Many of our reading and math assessments are based upon recorded observations, so we will be able to assess students during practice and interaction while the students are using the Mimio. This may be able to take some of the paper and pencil tasks away from our first graders. Success will be also be measured on student motivation and engagement as well as by the collaboration between teachers, and the deeper understanding of Common Core standards.

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 funds necessary to complete this project are \$3500.00. This money would cover the purchase of 2 Mimio interactive projector. Each Mimio projector costs \$1500.00. The additional \$500.00 will be used for software, installation, and replacement equipment (light bulbs, stylus pens). Our principal has stated that she would pay for the mounting of the projectors in the classrooms. Any other costs, such as downloads from TeachersPayTeachers or other sources, will be paid for personally.

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.

IMG_3746.JPG

Attachment 2

IMG_3744.JPG

Attachment 3

File Attachment Summary

Applicant File Uploads

- IMG_3746.JPG
- IMG_3744.JPG



