iCollaborate

Collaborative Classroom Grant Application

Bitterroot Elementary School

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Application Form

Report Fields

Project Name*
Name of Project

iCollaborate

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.

Bitterroot Elementary

Applicants*
Please list the educators collaborating on this grant.

Monica Anderson, Library Media Specialist at Bitterroot Elementary
Amanda Huck, Library Media Specialist at Beartooth Elementary

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

260

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?

John Dewey once said, "If we teach today the way we taught yesterday, we rob our children of tomorrow." Technology is not about replacing materials like whiteboards, paper and pencils; it is about expanding upon those tools and providing access to information that our students need to be successful. By integrating technology in the elementary school classroom, educators are building the foundation students need to succeed in a 21st century global society. Many of the students we work with daily are from low income homes, and do not have access to the latest technologies available. In order to be competitive and successful, these students must be given opportunities to learn about and use the most up-to-date forms of technology. Students can learn how to use technology while being interactively engaged in essential literacy practices through the use of countless applications that can be provided by an iPad and a Chromebook. Technology that is used effectively in classrooms enhances student learning, creating an environment where students of all ability levels and learning styles can rise to their potential.

This project, iCollaborate, began as a conversation between two teacher librarians, discussing how amazing it would be to have our students collaborate across district on a project. As we planned our project, we realized that both of our libraries are lacking in technology tools and struggling to make the technology that we do have easily accessible to students. Bitterroot Library has access to an iPad lab and a few Chromebooks, while Beartooth Library has access to a Chromebook lab and only a handful of iPads. To complete the iCollaborate project, students will need access to both iPads and Chromebooks.

Library budgets are limited and there is little money available to upgrade technology. Books are expensive and make up the majority of budget purchases. By awarding this grant and assisting our libraries in accessing relevant technology, the Foundation would be an important contributor to transforming our libraries into 21st century media centers. We are asking the Foundation to support both the Beartooth and Bitterroot Libraries' Collaborative Grant, which would provide the Beartooth Library with five iPad minis and the Bitterroot Library with eight Chromebooks.

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 our iCollaborate project will be to enhance students' experiences exploring books, expressing opinions, and composing opinion pieces, while using technology tools that provide for learning and peer collaboration in the 21st century. Developing a web-based hub that hosts student book reviews will aid in the task of building a community of readers at our schools and long term, district-wide.

With the adoption of the Common Core State Standards,it is necessary to take student learning to a deeper level of understanding. Students need to apply, analyze, evaluate and create. Access to a variety of tools will give students resources vital to their success. This project will focus on guiding students through the process of creating book reviews for the stories they read. These book reviews will address multiple strands of the Common Core standards, including but not limited to: Theme, Narrative, Analysis, Presentation and Collaboration (corestandards.org).

Project Description

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

Reading is not only about being able to understand and navigate the text, it's also about being a part of the author's vision and participating in the experience of the story itself. iCollaborate will transform the students and the books they read into an engaging community of readers and ideas.

Students at each school will chose a book they would like to read. Once students have read their books, they will be assigned a collaborative partner at the other school (Bitterroot or Beartooth). Students will have the opportunity to correspond during the time they are reading their books by utilizing Google Drive Chat and D2 email.

Upon the completion of their chosen books, students will begin the creation process for their book review. They will develop a script and an outline for their iMovie project. Students will peer edit and discuss the project with their partner student at the opposite school. Students will offer constructive criticism and support using the project guidelines rubric.

Students, with support from Teacher Librarians, will develop their review using iMovie. The reviews will be uploaded to our Weebly: http://bitterbears.weebly.com/ In the future, our on-going plan is to extend this project and share with other Billings Public Schools libraries, and perhaps the Billings Public Library.

Students will wrap-up their project with self and peer reflections. Students will be assessed using the rubric we developed (see attached).

Professional Development

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

We are both currently in our second year of the district's TILT (Teachers Integrating and Learning Technology) program. Through this program, we have been provided excellent information and resources to support the iCollaborate project. Ann Brucker, our schools' Technology Integration Specialist, is available to assist and help overcome any obstacles we may encounter. We both continually email Mrs. Brucker for technological advice. This book review project would be a project that could be replicated in other libraries, allowing for collaboration and discussion between librarians that could support a broad range of students district-wide. We are excited to continue collaborating and learning new techniques, technologies and strategies to make this project successful!

Project Timeline

When will you implement your project?

iCollaborate will be implemented immediately upon receiving funds to purchase the necessary technology this spring. 6th grade students from each school have begun working on book reviews. We have already been able to have a couple of students peer edit and collaborate with other students at the partner school. With our limited amount of tools, we have been able to create a few videos from this process. iCollaborate will be an on-going project, with the goal of producing one book review per semester, per student, depending on classes. The students are currently becoming familiar with using Chromebooks and the iMovie tool. The additional iPads and Chromebooks will enable students to develop their skills and give them additional time on the devices to explore and create.

Plan for Evaluation

How will you evaluate student outcomes for your project?

Students will be assessed through a rubric we created using Rubistar (see attached). Students will also complete a self evaluation and peer evaluation, allowing for a total of 15 points that can be earned. Taking into account that this project is time consuming, our plan is to have each student create one book trailer per semester. Steps and methods can be modified through discussions and idea sharing, with the goal of providing students positive and well-planned experiences.

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.

$1500 for iPads - 5 iPad Minis to support Beartooth Elementary Library

$2000 for Chromebooks- 8 Google Chromebooks to support Bitterroot Elementary Library

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.

Multimedia Project - Elementary Book Review.gsheet

Attachment 2

IMG_2837.JPG

Attachment 3

IMG_2838.JPG

File Attachment Summary

Applicant File Uploads
- Multimedia Project - Elementary Book Review.gsheet - File could not be converted
- IMG_2837.JPG
- IMG_2838.JPG

File Troubleshooting

Files not included will be available online when viewing the submission or request unless the file type is not compatible with software available on your computer. To view the file online, open the appropriate application or request and click on the file name link. The file will also be able to be printed separately from your computer.

Files unable to be included in the packets can affect the ease the packet may be read by the staff and evaluators at the grant maker. Please take a moment to read the common causes for files not converting and, if possible, resolve this issue.

Please note: If you have already submitted the form, you will need to contact the grant maker to request they return it to draft form for you to be able to make changes.

Common issues:
- The file type uploaded is not supported in print packets.
- Supported file types are:
  - PDF files (Adobe Acrobat)
  - Common image formats (JPEG, GIF, PNG)
  - Microsoft Office formats (Word, Excel)
  - Text files (.txt)
  - Comma Separated Value files (.csv)

  If you are using an unusual file type, please see if a more standard file format may be used. Often unusual file formats will not be able to opened or read by the staff or evaluators of the organization you are applying to for funds.

- The file caused an error while being converted to PDF.
  - The file path is too long or contains special characters such as (%&^*()@#$!)
    - Example: c:/documents/foundant/marketing/spring2012/programs/events/walkathon2012.doc
    - c:/documents/foundant/walkathon@mall.doc
  - The most common cause for errors is due to the document being password protected

    Please check your file to make sure password protection is turned off in the document. If your file name is too long or contains special characters, try saving the file to your desktop, removing any special characters and uploading the file again from your desktop to the application.

- A virus was detected in the file so it was not uploaded to the system