

# Incredible iPads

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## *Classroom Grant*

### ***Highland Elementary School***

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# Application Form

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## Report Fields

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### Project Name\*

Name of project

Incredible iPads

### Amount Requested

Amount requested on application.

\$950.00

### Grade Level

Please select grade level below.

Intermediate (4-6)

### Primary Subject Area

Please select the primary subject area of your grant.

Language Arts

### School

Please select your school from the list below

Highland Elementary

### Number of Students Served

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

50

### Project Cost

What is the total cost of your project?

950.00

### Statement of Need

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

The students of 2014 are not the same students of 1914 or even 1994, however, classroom structure has remained virtually the same. Today's technologies are influencing teachers, including me, to bring new, updated and improved changes to their classrooms. In my endeavor to provide my students with the edge they need to successfully compete in our technologically savvy world, the greatest hurdle I find is funding.

With the levies having passed and more money now available for technology, Billings Public Schools has taken a small step in the right direction. However, we still have a lot of catching up to do. That being said, being behind in technology is not my only concern. Often my students are resistant to becoming life-long learners. Getting the work done and handed in isn't enough to give them what they need. They deserve the best possible education I can deliver. Today's students need to have effective tools that will inspire them to be lifelong learners, to be questioning, to be thinking critically, to be digging deeper into rich content. I want to do all I can to bring my students into the 21st Century and have them be lifelong learners and productive citizens who contribute positively to the world. This project will impact student learning by adding to their technological options. Having two iPads available in my 6th grade classroom will be a start to offering students some of the tools that will aid them in many cross-curricular areas.

Kevin Durden teaches at Forest Lake Elementary, a technology magnet school in Columbia, South Carolina. Students at this amazing school are totally engaged in learning. "Above the soft murmur of students asking one another questions, the clicking of keyboards, and the recorded sound of tropical birds chirping through someone's headphones, Durden coaches one kid at a time. 'When I was student teaching in a more traditional environment, I felt that out of a class of 20 students, I was actually teaching maybe 12 of them,' he explains. 'Now, with these new tools, I feel I'm teaching every single one of them.' "

"You're not dumbing things down for one child in order to challenge another. You're challenging every child at her level," says former Forest Lake student and current curriculum coordinator Marian Scullion. By enabling success, you create in the student the appetite to succeed again.

(from <http://www.edutopia.org/stw-differentiated-instruction-technology-elementary>)

## 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 project is to provide tools, specifically iPads, to my students to enhance their learning. I am finding that it is increasingly more challenging to motivate my students to want to learn and to spend time studying concepts. I believe having ipads in my classroom as another learning avenue may help motivate my students to higher achievement. Right now I have no iPads in my classroom, and yet these incredible machines have so many learning applications, such as Quizlet, Guardian Eyewitness, Dragon Dictation, Poetry Creator, and Plicker.

According to District 2 Technology statement,

"Students will be provided with the necessary technology and research skills for accessing, analyzing, and organizing information as well as creating new knowledge. They will be provided with opportunities to work cooperatively on authentic, large scale problems, to develop diverse communication skills and to collaborate beyond the walls of the classroom."

## Project Description

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

The iPad has so many educational applications in the classroom, and yet one might ask how just 2-3 of them could be used for a whole classroom of students. These are some of the ways I can see them being beneficial for students:

1) Communication Arts is an area that many students need to strengthen. One of the projects I'd like to implement is creative/critical writing based on the photojournalism offerings of an app called "Guardian

Eyewitness." With the reflector app, compatible with ipads, I can project a photo for the class to view. They can then assess, reflect and journal about the photo with a critical eye. This same activity could be done in small groups for the purpose of discussion. As I've learned in a recent Library of Congress class, evaluating primary sources such as photos can be a powerful learning tool.

2) "Dragon Dictation" is another interesting app that would be especially helpful for students with special needs. There seems to usually be a segment of every classroom that struggles with getting the written word down. This puts students who may have very good ideas and knowledge of subject areas at a disadvantage because of their inability to communicate effectively via the written word. "Dragon Dictation" allows those students to dictate their thoughts, answers, etc. into the ipad and have it recorded into written form. This would be so beneficial and would be an avenue for those students to get their words down and not get hung up on struggles with dysgraphia. This is not to say that their writing challenges would not be addressed, but for the sake of getting word to paper, Dragon Dictation would be a huge help.

3) Yet another app I plan to use to improve my students' vocabulary is Quizlet. This amazing app allows one to establish "sets" dealing with a variety of subject areas. Students can use these sets which would help in study skills, whether it be vocabulary, spelling, or decoding words. They can quiz themselves in a variety of ways: independently, with another student or in a small group. Teachers can create sets in virtually any subject area, and I see this as being especially crucial in the building up of vocabulary, whether it be reading fiction, nonfiction, or content areas.

4) Again in the interest of improving literacy, "Poetry Creator" would be an engaging way to draw students into using words to express themselves. Entering into poetry can also benefit students by allowing them to analyze poetry of others' and evaluating it. I can see using this app in small groups or a whole class.

5) I plan to create lessons using "EduCreations." This site is a place where I can gear interactive lessons to really hook my students into learning concepts relevant to them. I can use this with the SmartBoard in my classroom or I can use this individually or in small groups. The bottom line is that it will help my students in understanding.

6) Finally, one of the hallmarks of effective instruction is immediate feedback. "Plicker" is a very useful tool that could be used to get an instant assessment of my students' understanding of instruction. Plicker is another free app in which each student is given his/her own individual card that has a configuration similar to a QR. In response to a multiple choice question, students hold up their individual card. Because of the subtlety of each card, it would be difficult for students to see what each others' answers are. The teacher then uses the iPad to scan the students quickly. Their individual answers are instantly visible on the ipad for only the teacher's eyes. I see this as a non-threatening, sensitive way to help me know who is ready to move on and who needs reteaching of a particular concept.

In conclusion, I do not have just one project, but several, with the ultimate benefit to students of improving their Language Arts skills.

## Professional Development

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

This project does not include professional development, but I will be looking for opportunities to enhance my familiarity with ways to use the iPad for the benefit of the education of my students.

## Project Timeline

When will you implement your project?

Upon purchase of the iPads, they can be used immediately! I look forward to being able to implement projects as soon as educationally appropriate applications are installed on the ipads.

### Plan for Evaluation

How will you evaluate student outcomes for your project?

Most projects that are used in conjunction with the iPads will be evaluated based upon rubrics and/or performance assessments. I will use the Plicker application as an evaluation tool for some projects and formative assessments.

### 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.

2 Apple iPad2's @ \$399 (BPS District price)	\$798.00
Additional funds for purchasing iPad apps and rotating holders	\$152.00

Total requested	\$950.00
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NOTE: Our PTSA will match this grant if awarded by Billings Educational Foundation. Therefore, my 6th grade Highland students will gain four iPads!

### 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.

video.doc

### Attachment 2

rotating holders.doc

### Attachment 3

# File Attachment Summary

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## ***Applicant File Uploads***

- video.doc
- rotating holders.doc

Here is a link to a video about how important technology is in the classrooms of today.

[http://www.teachertube.com/viewVideo.php?video\\_id=256199](http://www.teachertube.com/viewVideo.php?video_id=256199)

Here is a link to the rotating holders.

[http://www.amazon.com/DURAGADGET-Handheld-Rotating-Adjustable-Generation/dp/B008PB09M0/ref=sr\\_1\\_5?s=electronics&ie=UTF8&qid=1394740248&sr=1-5&keywords=ipad+holder](http://www.amazon.com/DURAGADGET-Handheld-Rotating-Adjustable-Generation/dp/B008PB09M0/ref=sr_1_5?s=electronics&ie=UTF8&qid=1394740248&sr=1-5&keywords=ipad+holder)