

Kindling the empowerment of reading!

Classroom Grant

School District 2

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Application Form

Report Fields

Project Name*

Name of project

Kindling the empowerment of reading!

Amount Requested

Amount requested on application.

\$973.00

Grade Level

Please select grade level below.

Middle School (7-8)

Primary Subject Area

Please select the primary subject area of your grant.

Language Arts

School

Please select your school from the list below

Lewis and Clark Middle School

Number of Students Served

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

90

Project Cost

What is the total cost of your project?

1000.00

Statement of Need

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

This grant would fund the purchase of 7 Kindle e-readers for use in the Language! classes and in the Learning strategies class. The kindle e-reader has the potential to assist our students in improving their reading skills while utilizing a variety of reading text, libraries and curriculum reading. Having e-readers available to students allows them to foster a desire and learn to enjoy reading for a multitude of reasons. The

capabilities for understanding vocabulary and inference learning that the e-books possesses is far reaching while trying to touch and assist all students in the classroom to achieve success in reading comprehension and applicable skills. Currently at the middle school level we are also incorporating 6th graders into our classes and I strongly feel that exposure to the e-readers will help foster a desire to become lifelong readers at an earlier age.

In today's world technology is continuously changing and improving. It is imperative that as educators we utilize all the means and tools available to us in order to encourage and assist our students to learn while enjoying a variety of learning tools. If we can give our students an opportunity to experience a variety of learning tools it will allow the students to find their preferred learning method and assist in the students succeeding in our schools. The kindle will not only allow a student to read for enjoyment but can be used to assist in research projects and curriculum based projects. While having the tools to give the students needed experience in margin notes and utilizing content clues and footnotes when it lends itself to higher learning and understanding.

Students seem to thrive when they are allowed to experience technology that they find interesting and exciting in the classroom. Some students do not enjoy reading for any reason and technology allows us to hopefully make it a positive experience so that a student develops a desire to read for many reasons.

It is an educator's duty to make sure that we continually upgrade our teaching methods and mediums to encourage our students to stay engaged and excited about learning. Having the kindles available to students in the classroom will make learning more exciting and reading more appealing to those students that have not enjoyed reading in the past. When students read for enjoyment it builds their comprehension skills and makes them better readers. I believe that having kindles in the classroom will encourage those students that are not natural readers to experience new books and possibly learn to enjoy reading for knowledge. I see kindles as an update, not simply of books but of the library experience due to the students having access to the school district 2 libraries along with the city library.

Today our students face many new obstacles in and out of our schools, I hope to provide students with an alternate method of reading and researching that will encourage and foster a love for lifelong learning and gaining knowledge through curiosity of subject matters. My goal is to encourage our student to have a desire for lifelong learning and to assist in teaching the students the tools that will foster the goal of High school graduation in each and every one of the students that I have the pleasure and honor of working with.

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 grant is to improve student's ability to analyze and interpret text by using kindle e-readers to practice important reading comprehension strategies such as highlighting text, writing margin notes and learning level vocabulary words. Kindle e-books have built in dictionaries and keyboards that allow students to make notes, highlight text and enlarge font size to improve readability and understand vocabulary instantly by being able to access the meaning right on the e-book itself without interrupting a student's reading.

The grant will also provide the students in my classes with a large variety of options for reading to assist in differentiated instruction for individual's needs, interest and best learning styles. This hopefully will provide the student with the desire and multi-methods of increasing their ability to comprehend and enjoy reading all types of text for all different reasons.

Project Description

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

In the Language Classes, I have a number of reading requirements and books that students must complete, having 7 kindle would allow me to broaden the reading field to include books that can be borrowed

from the Billings Public library along with the libraries of School District 2. This will also provide the students with a wider group of topics and authors to choose from. Each day in my classes we finish with 10 minutes free read with the hopes that we will build both comprehension and higher reading Lexiles. I have seen throughout the years that this reading time does improve students reading abilities, strengthens the student's comprehension and extends the students vocabulary skills. Students would be able to access their own books in the classroom utilizing e-book and having the capabilities to make their own notes, highlight text or accessing definitions right there in front of them. The kindle e-book would give students a larger availability of books that match their independent reading lexile and the student would not have to worry about other students seeing the covers or titles to feel self-conscious about or worried they may get a bad time for choice of genre, or content that they have chosen.

I also hope once I get a feel for the wide applications of the kindle e-readers and the students are comfortable with the e-readers to implement a buddy read time with our independent living classroom that would allow our students to be able to share and read stories to students that may never be able to utilize an e-reader themselves. The opportunity for my students to be able to master a skill and then mentor others would prove to be a self-motivator and self-esteem builder that would hopefully lend itself to the student making a goal to continue to grow and graduate while always putting forward their best foot no matter the circumstances.

In my LANGUAGE! classroom currently I utilize 2 IPADs that have the Kindle app on them for the independent reading time built into my lesson plans daily. The students thrive to finish their required work to be able to read on the kindle program. We have checked out books from many School District 2 libraries and also the Billings library. The classroom has also purchased a variety of wimpy kid book and others using a kindle account. By increasing the availability from 2 to 9 e-readers for the classroom, it would give the students more time with the readers and allow them to explore and research other areas of study also. The students would be able to research and take notes on topics of interest that we read about as a class and follow up with research projects.

In giving access and teaching multi-cross curriculum applications while utilizing all types of technology available to students today will only serve to better educate and advance our students success in school for years to come. The kindle e-readers will open young readers' minds to reading for education and for enjoyment inside and outside of the schools.

Professional Development

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

After the implementation of the e-readers in my classrooms I hope to collaborate with other staff in all classrooms in order to share best practice and ideas of effectively using the e-readers in the classroom and getting the best possible use from them. Offering mentoring from the students and I to help other classrooms broaden the modems of learning tools available in the classrooms.

Project Timeline

When will you implement your project?

I plan to implement this project immediately upon confirmation of grant funds, while working with the district technology department to assure the best possible pricing and value for both e-readers and protective jackets. There is no need for application installations or any other programming so once I acquire the e-readers I will put them into place immediately.

Plan for Evaluation

How will you evaluate student outcomes for your project?

Within the LANGUAGE curriculum we measure students lexile 3 time a year. I plan on documenting starting lexile of each student. Then each time a student uses an e-reader they will check beginning time and

finishing time of reading on the kindle. I hope to document the frequency of usage along with the total duration of time, to the increase of students lexile with in each 3 month measurement marker of the SRI test. I will also document the time read utilizing regular book. I hope to compare both lexile increase and a higher completion rate of books then utilizing an e-reader compared to reading standard books.

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.

PROJECT BUDGET

7 kindle fire 7" screen - 119.00 each (Amazon)

Total for 7 = 833.00

Protective covers with screen protectors and stylus pens= 23.00 each (Amazon)

Total for 7 = 167.00

Total cost of complete project 1000.00

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