Library Inspired Computing

Classroom Grant

Arrowhead Elementary

	bedfordr@billingsschools.org
2510 38th Street West	O: 406-281-6201
Billings, 59102	

Mr. Don Casey

2510 38th Street West	caseyd@billingsschools.org
Billings, 59102	O: 406-281-6408

Application Form

Report Fields

Project Name*
Name of project

Library Inspired Computing

Amount Requested
Amount requested on application.

$850.00

Grade Level
Please select grade level below.

Primary (K-3)

Primary Subject Area
Please select the primary subject area of your grant.

Other

School
Please select your school from the list below

Arrowhead Elementary

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

454

Project Cost
What is the total cost of your project?

1700

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

Over the past three years, I have worked to improve computer access in the Arrowhead library. The recent technology levy has helped the school immensely. However, classroom needs are so great, that the library has not benefited from school technology funds and is still in need of additional computers to provide a 21st Century learning environment.

This grant, in combination with proceeds from a recent book fair, will allow me to finally reach a 2-1 student to computer ratio that will impact 454 students, several times per week. I am anxious to begin successful lessons I developed when I had access to a full computer lab at a previous school. This process has taken nearly three years. My previous experience trying to crowd three students around a single computer has not been successful.

Students need access to technology to locate physical books with the on-line catalog, to access online resources such as World Book Online as well as quality databases on the "invisible" internet.

The school district's implementation of LEAD21 in the K-5 grades and upcoming concerns about typing skills needed for Smarter Balance Testing has left no access to existing computer labs for twelve of my twenty-two weekly library classes. This "1/2" lab will allow students to access online content and to learn valuable navigation and online safety skills
.
This grant will be used to purchase three Samsung Chromebook computers that meet school district requirements. I will match this grant by purchasing an additional three Chromebook computers with a significant portion of my book fair profits. The Chromebook computer, at ⅓ the cost of a traditional computer, has proven to be a cost effective way to bring additional computing to students.

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 this project is to develop a computing lab that is accessible to library students during regular library time. The first four library standards all have benchmarks that require students to access and evaluate information. In today's technology based world, that is full of all types of information, students need access to computers. These benchmarks are reflected in Common Core and are present in LEAD21 and STEM. Standardized testing is even computer based. Since access to computers during library times is difficult at best, Chromebook computers are a wonderful way to promote safe and critical computing skills. As a bonus, with added units, the art and health specialist will also have a greater chance to utilize computer based research.

Project Description

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

A requirement of LEAD21 is for students to complete six to eight inquiry projects each year. This requirement provides a natural connection between the classroom and library, and can't be ignored. Turning students into life-long learners begins with the learning of library skills and effective use of the internet.

Frequent studies have identified the value of school libraries. Media specialists have been trained to effectively use information of all types; including the "invisible" internet. "The library media specialist plays an essential role in the learning community by ensuring that students and staff are efficient and effective users of ideas and information (Scholastic, 2006). In today's world, a large portion of our instruction involves on-line activities. This involves hands on experience that is too diluted when students are crowded around limited access points.

The invisible Internet are those sites that usually require a fee or subscription to access and therefore are not searchable using regular search engines. Teaching students to question the authority of their information is an ongoing process. Teaching students and teachers to access and use the electronic equivalent of highly regarded resources is a top priority.   "Databases are vetted resources that must conform to an editorial standard, and their content is not included in general-purpose search engines (American Libraries,

March/April 2014). Currently, without guidance and instruction, students will overlook quality information from well respected, peer reviewed sites.

Students are often asked to use online resources, including D2 Docs to present their summary findings. Teachers do not always have time to effectively teach the nuances of different online tools. Since I work with various teachers in a central location, I have the ability to collaborate with classroom teachers and provide additional guidance that helps students develop their skills.

- ·   Identify information resources including databases and age appropriate websites.
- ·   Identify and evaluate resources.
- ·   Use search techniques to narrow resources.
- ·   Identify intellectual property and copyright.
- ·   Recognize the concept of netiquette and cyber bullying.
- ·   Recognize dangers and pitfalls of being online.
- ·   Creating a product to present findings.

When I reach the minimum of 2-1 computing, I will finally have the resources to include second and third grade students in computer instruction. Currently, there is no space in the Arrowhead computer lab schedules for me to even think about using computers with primary grade students. With the move toward Smarter Balanced Testing, I believe multiple experiences using technology is vital.

Professional Development

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

This project does not require Education Foundation support for professional development. I am a past member of TILT and have participated in Saturday Cadre classes. I feel comfortable looking for on-line tutorials and guidance if needed. I have a network of computer savvy colleagues who are also willing to give guidance and support if needed.

Project Timeline

When will you implement your project?

I will immediately use these Chromebook computers should I receive this grant. My second and third grade students at Arrowhead have gone far too long without access to computers. I can't wait to implement successful lessons I used in my previous school.

Plan for Evaluation

How will you evaluate student outcomes for your project?

Students will be considered successful when they begin to independently navigate and question online content. Through repeated experiences, I am expecting students to become more effective using D2 Docs and to independently choose vetted resources. Especially choosing to navigate to those sites considered the invisible net.

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 awarding of this grant is an important part of reaching my goal. I will use a large portion of my book fair profits to match the foundation grant to meet this initial goal.

This past year, a local service club donated three Chromebook computers as a thank-you for my speaking at two of their meetings.

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