



2007-2008 Grant Program Award Descriptions

Center, Elmwood and Hopkins Schools

Proposal Title: Math for All
Primary Applicant: B.J. Capalbo
Grade(s): K-5
Amount: \$3,145

Description: This grant will provide classroom teachers with an electronic library of story problems that are differentiated to support the Everyday Mathematics Curriculum and reinforce the skills and concepts of the state frameworks. Funding is also allocated to purchase and categorize educational math games that will be catalogued in the three elementary school libraries to borrow for class and home use. Games will foster fact practice, logical thinking and creativity.

Measurement: The effectiveness of this program will be evaluated through pre- and post surveys, teacher observation of proficiency and interest changes, and tracked use of materials.

Elmwood School

Proposal Title: Performance Based Precision Reading
Primary Applicant: Frances Hruska
Grade(s): 2nd and 3rd Grade
Amount: \$5,335

Description: Funds from this grant will provide comprehensive materials and training for teachers to more accurately determine student's reading levels, skill strengths & weaknesses, and thinking styles. Developmental Reading Assessment Kits add a multi-faceted tool that will monitor and track changes in student reading levels, assess comprehension of explicit and inferential information, gauge information recall, and determine student ability to apply text information in writing assignments and discussion. Current and fluid assessment information will optimize learning, confidence and success in school.

Measurement: Program effectiveness will be assessed by teacher observation of motivation and success with independent reading, analysis of MCAS results, and tracked use of materials.

Elmwood School

Proposal Title: Flying High with Fantasy
Applicant(s): Pat DiCostanza
Grade(s): 3rd Grade
Amount: \$1,664

Description: This grant adds class sets of fantasy literature to the 3rd grade curriculum to be used for whole-class shared reading experiences. All third graders will be exposed to at least one full length fantasy book allowing opportunities for role-playing activities, literature circles, art activities, character analyses, and whole class discussions of different reading strategies.

Measurement: This program will be evaluated through various forms of teacher assessment including observations during literature circles and class discussions, student written responses, culminating projects, and performance assessments that will gauge student's understanding of the book and ability to identify elements of the fantasy genre.

Hopkins School

Proposal Title: Engineering is Elementary
Primary Applicant: Maribeth Tremblay, Jennifer Jordan
Grade(s): 5th Grade
Amount: \$4,798

Description: This grant will build engineering and design into the 5th grade curriculum and generate enthusiasm for the field of learning. Engineering kits developed by the Museum of Science will encourage critical thinking skills and teamwork through hands-on activities in Electricity, Wind, Simple Machines, Sound, Insects, Water Filtration, and Bridges.

Measurement: The success of the program will be monitored by tracking the use of the kits as incorporated into the current science curriculum.

Middle School

Proposal Title: RM Mathematics Framework Edition: A Whole Class Teaching Solution
Primary Applicant: Charlie Caliri
Grade(s): 6th, 7th and 8th Grade
Amount: \$38,454

Description: This grant funds technology and professional development to create and deliver visual, interactive mathematics lessons to enhance student learning, expand collaboration among teachers, and motivate and engage the learner. It provides teachers with access to software that aligns local and national learning standards with curriculum resources, assessments, and activities. Interactive whiteboard technology units (Mimeo) will provide students with visual representations of complex mathematical relationships, increased opportunities to actively participate in the learning process, clear connections between mathematical content and activities, and more feedback regarding their performance and understanding.

Measurement: The effectiveness of this project will be measured through formal and informal classroom observations, results of common assessments, results on standardized tests, and teacher feedback. Benchmarks of success include: increased level of engagement, motivation and achievement of students in mathematics, increased teacher collaboration in sharing best practices, increased teacher familiarity and comfort in integrating technology into the classroom, and enhanced student-centered and standards-based instruction.

