

## **Innovative Classroom Projects: \$750 Grants for Teachers 2012-2013**

**Banks Trail Middle School:** Julie Maynard, ITE Teacher

***“Engineering Innovations: Parrot AR. Drone 2.0 Quadricopter & iPad Apps for Academic Achievement”***

*This project gives students the opportunity to investigate the function and application of the Parrot AR. Drone 2.0 Quadricopter to real-world problems. Students will be challenged with open-ended problems and design solutions that engage them in the applications of science and mathematics in the technological engineering design process.*

**Fort Mill Elementary:** Kris Pratt, Sarah Rigby, Ursula Patterson, Special Education Teachers

***“Creating a Non-Fiction Reading Rock Star”***

*This initiative seeks to improve student success and scores in science and social studies through non-fiction reading. Students will read books that correlate with science and social studies state standards and are able to take Accelerated Reader Tests on the material. These books will be at appropriate reading levels and readily available to them in the classroom. The more engaged students are in reading the better readers they become.*

**Fort Mill Elementary:** Amber Adgerson, 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher

***“Upper-Elementary Video Projects and Products”***

*This project engages students in learning about science, social studies, and reading fluency. Students will be able to create videos, take pictures, film plays, and record vocabulary and newscasts. This video project technology adds yet another technological dimension to student learning.*

**Fort Mill High:** Adrienne Bynum, English Teacher

***“Set it to Music”***

*This project encourages students to learn content material through songs. Students will take content from various subjects and apply their lyrics to current and familiar melodies using poetry. At the end of the project a hard copy of text along with an accompanying music CD will be available for students to use. These mnemonic devices will help students learn and retain information needed to excel in class.*

**Fort Mill High:** Beverly DeMayo, Special Education Teacher; Bethann Rohaly, High School 101 Teacher, Ellen Richardson, Special Education Teacher

***“We ALL Need to MOVE!-Building Healthy Bodies, Minds, and Emotions through Physical Activity”***

*This project promotes life-long physically active lifestyles for students and staff. Students in the WIN program, Alternative School Program, and High School 101 classes will have an opportunity to learn and participate in a variety of fun activities on team building, character education, and social skills. The equipment will also be made available to staff for use in team building and positive social interactions.*

**Fort Mill Middle:** Judi Griffin & Treva Hamlin, 6<sup>th</sup> Grade ELA Teachers

***“Preparing for the Future: Enriching Literacy through Informational Texts”***

*This project will build classroom libraries with informational texts. Students will learn strategies for reading and understanding these types of texts through a novel study, a nonfiction text, and weekly informational news magazines. These informational texts cover all subject areas and provide practice in informational reading strategies.*

**Fort Mill Middle:** Lauren Crawford, 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Science Teacher

**Banks Trail Middle:** Christina Ashburn, 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Science Teacher

***“Discovering Energy Transformations with Elenco Snap Circuit Kits”***

*This project will help students understand how energy is transformed from one form to another. The kit contains 300 different projects-devices that students can create. Students will be challenged to make a device that has four energy transformations, present it to the class, and explain how it works. By using the Snap kits the students investigate the standards through hands-on activities and use their higher level thinking skills to explain what they have done.*

**Gold Hill Elementary:** Amy Rohring, 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Teacher

***“Listen Up! Becoming Better Readers through Listening and Collaborating”***

*This project will set up a mobile classroom listening center of twenty mp3 players for students to use at school or home. Students need the opportunity to listen to others read to improve their fluency, decoding, and literacy skills. This listening center will offer hundreds of texts including non-fiction books, fiction books, comic books, Podcasts, magazines, and internet articles.*

**Gold Hill Elementary:** Stephanie Haecherl & Jamie Livingston

***“Planting the Seeds of Science”***

*This initiative focuses on using the senses and inquiry based learning to “grow” young scientists. Students will participate in experiments, learn to form hypotheses, and correctly communicate what they have learned. These tools will help build a strong foundation in science, provide a scaffold of content, and will promote a scope of sequence that continues from grade-level to grade-level.*

**Orchard Park Elementary:** Lisa Kasko, 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher

***“Movement, Music, and Man...So Much More!”***

*This project involves music, choreography, singing, lyric writing, and video taping in the classroom. Students will have access to educational songs and audio books and be able to share what they’re doing with parents through Shutterfly.com and the FMSD eChalk webpage.*

**Orchard Park Elementary:** Kim Price, 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher

***“Light the Fire of Reading: Moving Reading into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century”***

*This project seeks to “Kindle” the fire of reading in students by allowing them to use Kindles in literature circles, guided reading group lessons, and for self-reading times for students who would not be able to purchase these devices on their own. Using a Kindle encourages students to engage in reading and stay engaged for longer periods of time.*

**Pleasant Knoll Elementary:** Erin Jones, Reading & Math Specialist; Katrina Holmes, 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Teacher

***“Engaging Readers through E-Reading”***

*This project seeks to engage students in reading by using Kindle Touch E-Readers during guided reading instructional groups. The goal is to increase students desire to read thereby allowing for systematic and purposeful reading instruction that will foster reading skills and develop students’ skills to be successful in all content areas. Students will be able to discretely read at their level, have text read to them, and continue reading at home.*

**Riverview Elementary:** Ashley Mantel, Title I Reading Teacher

***“Increasing Reading Engagement at School and Home”***

*This project will provide a mobile library of new, current books on various reading levels that can engage below grade level readers. The books can be used in the classroom during independent reading time to promote reading engagement or taken home to read with a parent. This library will get interesting books right into the hands of students that need them the most.*

**Springfield Middle:** Rebecca Roemer, Computer Teacher

***“Tulip Project: The Journey North”***

*The purpose of this project is to assist students in linking technology and science to the real world. Students across the northern hemisphere will take part in an international science experiment where they will plant tulip bulbs in their test garden, track the progress, and analyze the data in the online database. The various methods of comparing/contrasting, drawing conclusions, reading maps, and identifying coordinates encourage the students to be more globally aware.*

**Sugar Creek Elementary:** Gina Kidd, Title I Math Specialist; Susan Balsinger, Title I Reading Specialist

***“It’s Great to Integrate: Math and Literature Integration for All”***

*This initiative’s goal is to integrate math and literature to allow for better understanding of math concepts and improve critical thinking skills by providing integration kits for classrooms. Each kit will contain copies of literature titles, math manipulatives to address the standard, and a description of how to use the book and manipulatives. This allows teachers to focus on math standards that students find difficult in a fun, hands-on way using quality literature.*