

Innovative Classroom Projects: \$500 Grants for Teachers 2011-2012

Sugar Creek Elementary School: Kimberly C. Nees, Elementary Library Media Specialist

“One School One Book Family Literacy Initiative”

This initiation seeks to improve student reading comprehension and vocabulary by educating families about the importance of reading aloud to their children. It provides an exciting program in which to encourage fifteen minutes of reading aloud every night for a month.

Springfield Middle School: Florence H. Ramsey, Physical Education Teacher
“Recreational Games”

This project addresses District beliefs that: Wellness is an essential goal for the individual and society; All persons have worth and value and should be treated with dignity; and The family is the primary influence in the development of the individual. Students will learn and practice recreational activities that the students and their families can enjoy playing together for years to come.

Gold Hill Elementary School: Carol Claypool & Rebecca Benvenuto, First Grade Teachers

“Text to Math Connection”

This grant provides one first grade and one second grade set of The Marilyn Burns Classroom Math Library; this curriculum allows math instruction for a whole group or small group as well as individualized attention and provides comprehensive teacher support tools.

Nation Ford High School: Crystal Taylor & Rick Solt, English Teachers

“Developing the Narrative Voice”

This project incorporates the use of multi-cultural literature to teach writing and speaking skills while emphasizing the importance of diversity and tolerance. Students will learn and apply literary and stylistic terms, compose their own vignettes, and present their final work to their peers through dramatic readings.

Fort Mill High School: Sharon T. Mitchell, Preschool Teacher, Early Childhood Center

“A Sense of Science”

This project introduces preschool children to the fundamentals of science through literature with a hands-on approach for mastering concepts in both science and literacy. Materials and equipment provided by the grant will help to foster language and science development.

Orchard Park Elementary School: Jennifer Jolly, Fourth Grade Teacher
“Making Mathematics Count”

*This project implements **Every Day Counts**, a research-based curriculum that provides repeated exposure to basic mathematical concepts and encourages conceptual understanding and fluency. One of the goals of this program is to increase test scores and mathematics proficiency in our students.*

Nation Ford High School: Joshua Hope, Special Education / Special Setting Teacher

“Falcon Life Skills Classroom”

This project helps students with special needs put “real life” writing, reading and math skills into practice in the Falcon Life Skills classroom. Funds will be used to “stock” the classroom with “real world” sections: a grocery store, department store, restaurant, and a vocational workshop; these will allow students to practice needed skills without the expense of a field trip.

Fort Mill Middle School: Treva Hamlin, Sixth Grade Teacher

“Telling Our Story: Writing Memoirs Using Literature and Technology”

“Telling Our Story” is a year-long project that combines activities such as a variety of writing topics, digital photography for recording life events, and interviews with family members in order to complete a personal student memoir. Along with strengthening reading, writing, and technology skills, this project can potentially impact the lives of these students through the process of self-discovery.

Gold Hill Elementary School: Stephanie Haecherl, Jamie Livingston, & Amy Rohring: Kindergarten Teachers

“Sailing into Reading”

With the goal of increasing student literacy, this plan provides a comprehensive, progressive and challenging curriculum, with instruction and assessment for all students in the seven Kindergarten classes. The program will allow for small, teacher-directed groups offering students the opportunity to grow in different facets of literacy.

Orchard Park Elementary School: Lynn Given, Reading & Reading Support Teacher

“Kindling a Love of Reading”

This grant provides two Kindle e-readers and funds to purchase e-books and audio books. These tools provide an innovative approach to literacy instruction among struggling upper grade readers. The Kindle formats and fonts can be adjusted to make reading easier and will be used by multiple students, who will alternate reading traditional books with the Kindles.

Riverview Elementary School: Emily Gaither, 2nd Grade Teacher

“Lending Library: Getting Leveled Books to Kids at Home”

This program seeks to help improve reading scores by getting leveled books into children’s homes for nightly reading. Reading improvements will be measured through the Fountas and Pinnell Reading Assessment. These assessments will be given at least three times a year, tracking student reading levels to measure their reading progress.

Riverview Elementary School: Sydney Field & Jessica Catledge, 4th Grade Teachers

“Effectively Implementing Guided Reading & the Daily 5”

The Guiding Reading grant will fund the necessary materials to implement reading stations and incorporate guided reading, along with the Daily 5, into the class literacy block. Two classrooms will utilize these reading stations to strengthen their essential reading and writing skills.

Gold Hill Elementary School: Jonelle Gardner, Technology Teacher; Rebecca New, Art Teacher; & Joy Price, Media Specialist

“Catawba Collaboration”

This project enhances the third grade Social Studies curriculum as students study the Catawbas and other Native Americans of South Carolina. Students will use the media center, the art and the music departments, the PE department, and the technology lab to study Catawba culture through research, the study of their arts, and the documentation of their studies.