

# Hands-on Learning Grants – 2012-2013 School Year

## Using iPads to Accelerate Reading Achievement

Author: Melissa Kivi

Implementor: Stephanie Haage

School: Noble Elementary

Through carefully selected applications, the iPads will provide our lowest achieving readers access to a wide variety of meaningful literacy tasks in the areas of phonics, vocabulary, fluency, and comprehension -- the skills they need to attain reading proficiency. The applications, available for no or low cost, will be differentiated and organized into individual folders for each student based on learning needs. Every student will be easily able to access engaging and hands-on literacy activities tailored just for him or her.



## Books for Babies - 2012-2013

Authors: Cheryl Hanson, Linda Kauffman, and Cindy Vollmer

School/Program: Cavanagh Early Childhood Center - ECSE

The Books for Babies initiative is a District Wide Early Literacy project using a book model which is designed to promote and teach the importance of early literacy for developing skills for kindergarten readiness.

This initiative has three primary goals to promote learning:

- Provide a book for all families that are referred to Early Intervention for a development screening.
- Using the book model parents are provided with guided instruction on how to promote early literacy in the home.
- Families are given additional resources about the importance to early literacy prior to school age.



## **Creative Parenting**

Author: Ashley Peterson

School/Program: Creative Play Preschool at Cavanagh/  
New Hope/Sonnesyn/Zachary Lane

"How do I avoid getting into a power struggle with my child? Why won't my child go to bed without a fight? Is my child growing and developing at a normal pace?"

These are three common questions that many parents of young children are concerned about and we want to provide some answers. Through a series of three evenings, parents of children ages three to five will be invited to hear a licensed parent educator address concerns on these topics and receive a free parenting book. Time will be included for questions and child care will be provided.



## **Getting our Smartboards to "Click"!**

Author: Andy Albee

Program: Adult Academic Program

We plan to enhance our Smartboard technology with the ability to get instant, anonymous and valid evaluation & response data using Smart Response click remotes. Students will be asked questions and will send their response electronically and instantaneously to the Smartboard. This project will utilize our new technology in fun, interactive, and engaging way with students that aren't as likely to have previous comfort with technology and are less likely to interact in class. The set will be shared between multiple classrooms at multiple levels to increase the effectiveness of our lessons with student interaction.



## **Growing Green Kids**

Author: Susan Mottinger

School: Neill Elementary

Students in the first and fourth grades will put their heads together to cooperatively design and build a raised bed and straw bale garden, as well as an irrigation system to supply water to the garden. They'll work in teams to turn a pile of lumber, pipes, and straw bales into an engineering marvel. When the measuring and building is finished our students will turn from the engineering sciences to the life sciences. That's when things will start to get messy. Students will plant a variety of flowers and vegetables which will provide lots of opportunity for scientific experimenting and observation.



## School SmartBoardTechnology Project

Author: Dyne Stephenson

School: Highview Alternative Program

Our school serves an ethnically diverse, socio-economically disadvantaged population. Students using the SMART Board will be provided:

- Creative ways to draw, write, drop and drop words and graphs on screens, maps and other images
- Visualize an image of themselves as valued, capable, modern learners.
- Innovate ways to make their own SMART Board presentations.
- Improve Cornell note-taking skills and vocabulary growth.
- Increase test scores and close the Achievement Gap.
- Stimulate an interest in Social Studies through technological interactivity.
- Anticipate showing what they know to peers and teacher.
- Engage a variety of learning styles and intelligences.



## iPad=weCan

Author: Julie Johnson

School: Meadow Lake Elementary

iPad=weCan advances the iPad in a classroom of special needs students from a solo to a shared learning experience by placing another iPad in the hands of more students. We now know firsthand what a dynamic learning experience the iPad offers. However, a single iPad falls short when there are eight pairs of hands and eight ready minds all reaching for it. We want to demonstrate in our students lives and for others in the future the value of iPads as BOTH an individualized and a group learning tool.



## Lego My iPod

Author: Pam Treichel and Lesli Skarpol

School/Program: Northport Elementary/IDEA Zone

Lego My iPod is a hands-on STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) curriculum for an extended day enrichment program serving kindergarten through fifth grade students that integrates the Engineering Design Process. Students will work in collaborative groups to create a robot out of Lego parts incorporating motors and sensors. Using computer software designed especially for LEGO robots, groups will problem-solve to program the robot to do a desired task. During the entire process, students will digitally capture the creation process as well as document the conclusion of programming using apps on an iPod Touch. Results of each group will be presented via student-created videos posted on the website.



## **Family Literacy Program - Experiencing the Community**

Author: Michelle Berscheid and Emily Vener

Program: Family Literacy

Have you visited the local museums? Many of our low income parents/students with adult academic needs (ELL, GED, and High School Diploma) and their young children have not. We selected three field trips to provide broader hands-on instruction, which includes: Minnesota Zoo, Minnesota Children's Museum, and the Bell Museum of Natural History. Field trips offer a great way to expand learning and English vocabulary, and can be difficult for families to experience on their own due to low income, lack of transportation, and language barriers. Parents and their children's interactions build a bond and trust that provides a foundation for critical thinking.

## **To Infinity and Beyond**

Author: Deanna Hanks

School: Neill Elementary

Ride into the future through cutting edge, interactive learning tools to meet the needs of all learners. Navigate learners through standards and research based knowledge in math, reading, and beyond using iPads. Explore galore with thousands of educational apps to scaffold the mind. Prepare for future visits as students will be able to demonstrate and create a video log of their accomplishments. Warp speed ahead to increased learner outcomes with apps to monitor individual student progress.



## **E2 Garden Project**

Author: Dustin Dobitz

School: Highview Alternative Program

This program is a unique, collaborative project involving secondary science students and college students majoring in horticulture, landscaping, or culinary arts. Our hands-on E2 (Earth Education) Garden will be built at a local technical college. High School and college students will build raised garden beds, research and sow the plants, and tend to the garden. We plan to involve our entire school community in a culminating activity where garden produce is prepared by the college culinary students so Robbinsdale students would be able to sample organic, healthy foods. Excess garden produce would be distributed to local food shelves.

