

Hands-on Learning Grants – 2013-2014 School Year

Talk, Touch, and Trust Tools for Tots: Success for Early Learning

Authors: Sarah Warner and Lynn Marrs

Program: Early Childhood Special Education

One major developmental task of a preschooler is learning social skills and self-regulation. This program includes lessons that teach empathy skills, emotional management, friendship and problem solving skills learning skills and prepares children for the transition to Kindergarten. These skills can be especially difficult for children with special needs to master. Using the Second Step Early Learning Curriculum and common language both in the classroom and in smaller groups when a child needs more intervention, will allow for practice, repetition and generalization of these social skills. This program will utilize a variety of teaching strategies including songs, puppets, stories and modeling as well as 1:1 coaching of children within a classroom social environment.

R.E.A.D. at Zachary Lane Elementary

Author: Jennifer Ellison

School: Zachary Lane Elementary

The goal of this project is to improve the reading skills of approximately 125 students and to help them learn to love reading. We will do this with Reading Education Assistance Dogs®. R.E.A.D. is a program that helps improve children's reading and communication skills by employing a powerful method: reading to a dog. R.E.A.D dogs are registered (certified) therapy animals who volunteer with their handler as a team, going to schools, libraries, and many other settings as reading companions for children.

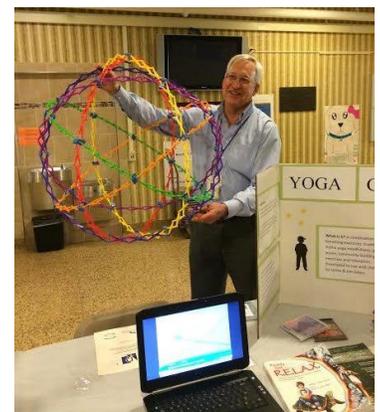


Yoga Calm Project

Authors: Angela Hanson, Greg Sicheneder and Erika Rootness

School: Sonnesyn Elementary

Yoga Calm is an “innovative child education method that integrates fitness, social/emotional, and cognitive learning into 5 to 45-minute activities and processes.” The Yoga Calm Project will incorporate yoga and relaxation techniques into regular and special education classrooms to: improve test scores by decreasing test anxiety; decrease negative behaviors by teaching emotional regulation; and maximize learning by providing opportunities for movement and exercise.



Early Childhood Connections

Author: Nicki Murphy

Program: Early Childhood Special Education

This hands-on outreach project seeks to build early childhood connections between the district, community childcare providers, and the parents working for companies within our district. Parent educators will provide workshops for working parents and childcare providers as well as provide information on best practices in parent education through newsletters, to support children's healthy growth and development.



Ramp It Up

Author: Wally Kubitschek

Program: Robbinsdale Transition Center

This is a service learning project which impacts the quality of life for disabled individuals with dwelling egress and entrance issues. The students involved benefit by the fact that their efforts help other community members. The project taps the energy of special education students in learning and applying basic construction techniques. Students will use both hands and power tools to learn basic job skills associated with the construction trades. Once skilled, students will construct sections of ramps for home accessibility. As ramp projects develop students will install the sections on the homes of disabled citizens and veterans in collaboration with individuals from the Metropolitan Center for Independent Living.

Collaborative Mural Residency Workshop

Author: Kristyn DeGross

School: Neill Elementary

The Art Residency Mural Workshop will involve approximately 15-20 students in the development of a school wall mural, as well as teaching the art of collaboration. Four after-school workshops will be held in order to introduce students to the art of mural making and teamwork while exploring the theme of cultural diversity. During the workshop, students will create two different options for the school wall mural and conduct a school-wide vote in order to choose the winning design.



CSI: Robbinsdale

Author: James Stanton

School: Robbinsdale Cooper High School

Trace evidence is a major part of forensic science. Being able to compare two pieces of evidence at the same time would be a major improvement to the curriculum. Currently students have to use two microscopes, going back and forth between the two, to see if there is a visual match. With the addition of this tool to our curriculum, it will more closely mirror the career and training the students in this class hope to pursue.

Hip Hop After School: Beatz and Rhymz

Author: Mike Hastert

School: Robbinsdale Middle School Hip-Hop After

School: Beats & Rhymes is an academic initiative where students in grades 6-8 will learn about hip-hop culture and create their own music. Students will be taught the history of hip-hop and its original core values of Peace, Community, Unity, and Having Fun! Students will meet after school one day a week to learn the fundamentals of how to arrange, compose, produce, and record their own hip-hop music using technology and musical equipment. Program curriculum will be instructed by school staff and align with state standards to provide hands-on culturally relevant learning opportunities.



Academic Achievement Through Movement

Author: Lisa Rye

School: Lakeview Elementary

“Academic Achievement Through Movement” is a project that will motivate students in grades K-5 to learn reading and math skills while practicing physical education motor skills. Students will be encouraged to add more movement to their school day through participation in:

- “Ten Minute Trotters” – movement at the start of the day
- “The Walk Run Club”- students completing ¼ mile or more during recess each day

Small group intervention lessons that are fun, including academic learning, and movement. All students should have the opportunity to have academic success. This project will help this happen.

iPads to Go and Grow!

Author: Sally Mays

School: Robbinsdale Spanish Immersion

This would be a building-wide program using iPads to fill gaps and create opportunities for extended learning. The grades and concentrated activities would include:

Kindergarten: Letter formation, sight words, vocabulary, math, focus

1st and 2nd grade: Math facts, sight words, pronunciation, web research

3rd Grade: Math facts, reading support, audio books for pronunciation, web research

4th and 5th Grade: Math facts, reading support, science concepts, web research, video production

Special Education: Writing dictation, task management and remediation in all subjects

How Government Works: Learning Through Active Participation

Author: John Trerotola

Program: Adult Academic Program

Many recent articles have discussed ideas for a complete overhaul of the way civics are taught. Students are usually presented with a litany of facts to be memorized before an exam. We propose that learning civics in a passive manner can be replaced by a hands-on approach. Through “How Government Works,” adult students will learn and better understand the complexities of their government by becoming active and informed participants. Learners will also have the opportunity to meet representatives from many levels of local, state, and federal agencies and, as a result, share this information with their fellow students.



Newsworthy

Author: Nancy Rzeszutek

Program: Lakeview Adventure Club

Newsworthy is a peer mentoring program that uses technology to build self-esteem, positive relationships and a sense of purpose in an elementary school setting. Students are trained in writing, reporting, video recording and editing to produce a weekly newscast. These students then transfer their knowledge and experience by mentoring other students. This is a completely student led, hands-on program that gives ownership, creates camaraderie and bridges different communities together. This grant will provide more opportunities to ensure the necessary equipment is available for students to continue to thrive and be *Newsworthy*.

C.A.L.L. Computer Assisted Language Learning

Author: Andy Luu

School: Robbinsdale Cooper High School

Heed the CALL of our English Language Learners! CALL (Computer Assisted Language Learning) will facilitate and advance EL (English Learners) learning while simultaneously bridging the digital divide. CALL will allow teachers to create dynamic and entertaining multimedia lesson plans engaging our diverse EL population. Students will be proactive in their learning with iPad minis that has the technology to seek answers, collaborate with classmates, and become accountable for their academic process. CALL will eventually be a district-wide approach with multi-tiered systems if support and leadership at all levels and continuous performance assessment of the implementation efforts and student outcomes.