



2013 - 14 Educational Grant Application
Deadline: Wednesday, March 20, 2013, by 4pm

Name of Grant: **A Lifetime of Reading!**

Name of person(s) submitted by: (if submitted by a team of teachers, grade level, etc. please list all names involved and select one individual to be the contact person for the grant.)

Karen Abney, Solomon Boatfield, Helen Cherian, Hayley Fraser, Katie Briggs

Campus/Department: **Marion Elementary** **Grade Level(s):** **6th**

Total Dollar Amount Requested: **\$ 1500.**

Number of students who would be involved/impacted by grant: **130 per year for several years**

Name of principal or immediate supervisor who will approve submission: **Johnna Walker**

Project Purpose: What is the problem, need or opportunity that this grant will address? What is the **student need** which the project will address? The purpose should explain **what students will know and be able to do** as a result of this project. Please explain how a problem will be addressed or a situation improved because of the grant. **(200 words or less)**

“ A troubling trend in American schools is that more and more students are entering secondary schools unprepared to tackle challenging texts.” (Kelly Gallagher)

Marion Elementary is a diverse campus (43% minority) with many nationalities represented. Access to contemporary literature/novels that appeal to a wide range of interests and reading levels is currently limited. Classic novels have been provided through the Springboard curriculum, but contemporary novels that appeal to reluctant readers are in short supply. An infusion of high interest, dynamic literature would make all of the difference in the world.

The foundation for reading and the love for literature must be instilled and be strongly established by the time students exit elementary school. To become life long readers and communicators, students must be provided with meaningful text and authentic opportunities to communicate with peers.

I want students to have the opportunity to share their love of literature so that it becomes contagious to others. Both reading and communication (writing and speaking) skills need to be brought up to a superb level so that our 6th graders enter their secondary educational experience with the strongest possible foundation.

Project Description: How will the project or program be implemented? Describe activities and tasks. Who is the target population and in what ways will they benefit? **(200 words or less)**

1. **Survey students to determine the types of literature that are in the greatest demand paying particular attention to titles that are most appealing to boys, minorities, and reluctant readers. We would also contact various librarians throughout the district to determine which books would be school appropriate for 6th grade.**
2. **Based on recommendations, purchase literature that has that high interest level. The goal would be to have multiple copies of each novel for book clubs/literature circles.**
3. **Work with the owner of A Real Bookstore to partner with them for bringing in a young adult author to speak to our students.**
4. **Use the differentiation block time to form meaningful literature circles/book clubs where numerous students are experiencing the same book appropriate for their reading level and interest.**
5. **Create on-line discussion groups, face to face interactions, blogs, and video conferencing opportunities as well as virtual communities where literature is treated as an interactive experience instead of just a school requirement.**

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Allen ISD Goals/TEKS: Which Allen ISD goals/TEKS does this project support? Limit to top two or three examples. **(50 words or less)**

Students will read grade level (or higher) text with greater fluency and comprehension.

Students will continue to apply all standards with greater depth in increasingly more complex texts as they become self-directed, critical readers.

Students will use creative thinking and innovative processes to construct knowledge and develop digital products to enhance reading comprehension.

Measurements: What specific measurements will be used to evaluate the effectiveness of the project? (100 words or less)

1. Both reading and writing scores should see a noticeable increase. The current 5th graders had a 92% passing rate on last year's STAAR. With additional independent reading, that should increase to at least a 95%.
2. Writing components would be constantly evaluated for ideas, depth, and complexity of thought.
3. Technology elements would be evaluated for effectiveness of dialogue and presentation.

Teaching Methods: What teaching methods will be used to implement this project? (100 words or less)

Direct teach: Strong questioning techniques
Analyzing author's thinking
Plot development
Writing techniques

Small groups: Discussion
Sharing of ideas
Interactions with peers

Technology: On-line discussions
Blogs
Virtual communities
Video components

Timeline for project: Funds will be available after September 1, 2013. (50 words or less)

May 2013 - Conduct surveys/get recommendations from librarians
Summer 2013- Contact the owner of A Real Bookstore to partner for an author visit
Sept. 2013 - Purchase books
Oct. 2013 - Initiate project
Nov 2013-May 2014 - Share literature & writing
May 2014 - Evaluate effectiveness

Curriculum/System Support: Explain how this idea or project enhances/supports Allen ISD curriculum or existing systems. (100 words or less)

This project provides numerous opportunities to advance student achievement in reading, critical thinking skills, writing, communication proficiency, and technology competence and comfort.

Additional Comments: Include any additional comments or information. (100 words or less)

Students at all skill levels would benefit from interacting with self selected text that is of high interest to them. Engaging in meaningful interactions with peers about it would create an atmosphere of reading that is relevant and personal. The goal is to create life-long readers with a passion for literature and a love for learning.

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Grant Budget: specific product numbers, vendor addresses, etc. **are not required** on this budget page. The name of the product or the type of training or estimated cost of transportation is sufficient.
***Please round numbers to the nearest dollar amount.**

Instructional Supplies or Resources: (Books, Manipulatives, etc.)	
Grade level appropriate novels (multiple copies of the same texts would be necessary)	
	Total: \$ 1000.00
Technology: (Software, License, etc.)	
	Total: \$
Staff Training / Staff Development:	
	Total: \$
Transportation:	
	Total: \$
Other Expenses:	
Author visit from an author of young adult literature	

	Total: \$ 500.00
TOTAL AMOUNT REQUESTED	\$ 1500.00

Additional Funds: Are there any additional funds available for this grant? Campus or district funds? PTA funds? If you have or will be seeking funds from any other sources to help with this project, please explain.