



2012-13 Educational Grant Application
Deadline: Wednesday, March 7, 2012, by 4pm

Name of Grant: Blackhawk Science Sacks

Name of person(s) submitted by: Caroline Turner

Campus/Department: Boyd Elementary/Science **Grade Level(s):** K-6 (Science Instructional Coach)

Total Dollar Amount Requested:

Number of students who would be involved/impacted by grant: 110

Name of principal or immediate supervisor who will approve submission: Kyle Pursifull

Project Summary/Purpose: Be specific. What is the **student need** which the project will address? The purpose should describe **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)**

I am the Science Instructional Coach at Boyd Elementary. Because Boyd is a Title One school, we have instructional coaches to assist teachers with improving their classroom instruction for our specific students. My role at Boyd allows me to work with K-6 teachers, as well as the students, through modeling and co-teaching lessons. Due to the dynamics of our student population, there tends to be some gaps with our students when compared to students of other Allen elementary schools. One of the reasons for this is because there tends to be a lack of academic interaction at home. Blackhawk Science Sacks would help with this problem.

The overall goals for students participating in this project include:

- Promoting enthusiasm for and an understanding of science.
- Instilling scientific process skills in young learners.
- Building or activating basic knowledge in young learners, which will be built upon in classroom.
- Creating classroom connections with family members.

The overall goal for parents participating in this project is to get them more interested and comfortable with scientific concepts so they can be more involved with their child's learning.

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)**

Eventually this program will be designed for students in grades kindergarten, first, and second. However, because each lesson has to be created, and materials need to be purchased for each Science Sack, it will be piloted with first grade students for the first year. Students will take home the Blackhawk Science Sacks on Thursdays to complete the science activity with their families over the weekend. They will return the Science Sack on Mondays, when they return to school. Teachers may use the student pages from the activities to promote class discussions about scientific topics. Students will also have the opportunity to share their findings, results, and conclusions with their class. These discussions will be an effective strategy to activate prior knowledge that can lead into the science lesson for that day.

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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)**

The Blackhawk Science Sacks are intended to close the gaps that Boyd students typically show in science, due to the tendency to have a lack of academic interaction at home. The lessons in the Science Sacks will be designed to promote interest and understanding of science, as a proactive approach to success in science classrooms and the STAAR assessment. The lessons will be focused primarily on identified science readiness standards and historically low-scoring standards at Boyd. Science process skill TEKS will be imbedded within the lessons as well.

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

The following measurements will be used to evaluate the Blackhawk Science Sacks:

- Parent Feedback Forms (included in each Science Sack)
- Teacher feedback on improvements in student performance in science
- After a few years of implementation, data from common formative assessments in the upper grade levels should show increased scores due to students entering grade levels with more prior knowledge

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

Hands-on inquiry would be the primary teaching method used with Blackhawk Science Sacks. The project would promote family involvement in science learning. Communication about the Science Sacks will be provided through the teacher newsletters. Please see attachments for a sample lesson and the safety contract.

Timeline for project: Funds will be available after September 1, 2012. **(50 words or less)**

The Blackhawk Science Sacks are not a pre-made purchased kit. Therefore, I will be customizing the Science Sacks to fit the needs of Boyd Elementary. Through the pilot year, three first grade classes will rotate through the ten created Science Sacks during the fall semester. The other three first grade classes will rotate through them during the spring semester. Hopefully, during the second year of implementation, there will be enough added lessons and materials that each first grade classroom would have Science Sacks all year long.

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

The Blackhawk Science Sacks would enhance enthusiasm of science in our young learners. It would also promote family involvement in academics. In doing so, students will have a better understanding of essential science knowledge and skills and will be able to take that knowledge and skill to higher levels in the classroom. This is critical for students at Boyd Elementary, as it would help bridge the gaps in their learning, therefore allowing teachers to have more rigorous instruction in the science classroom.

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

It would be most effective if I could create the lessons for the Blackhawk Science Sacks during the summer months so we can begin the first round of Science Sacks in the fall semester. It would also be ideal to have the lessons translated for our bilingual classrooms during the summer. Three classes would rotate through the ten lessons during the fall. Then, the remaining three classes would rotate through those same ten lessons in the spring. Throughout the school year, I would create the remaining ten lessons. Then, during year two of implementation, all classes would be able to rotate through twenty lessons throughout the entire school year.

However, if requested amount of funds is too high, the requested amount for summer work could be voided.

