

General Information

Grant Number	622
Project Title	Always Wonder, Always Question!
Please select the MAIN curriculum area your grant addresses.	Science
Does your grant have a technology component? (Will you have technology equipment, software, etc. in your budget?)	<input type="radio"/> No <input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes
Primary Contact Information	
First Name	Regena
Email	regena_bell@allenisd.org
Last Name	Bell
Phone Number	214-495-6765
Campus	Kerr Elementary
Main Subject	Science - Elementary
Grade(s)	<input type="text" value="1"/>
I have co-applicants.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Social Media	
Please provide your work-related social media contact information.	
Facebook	
Twitter	Tweets @ kerrcomets
Other (please specify)	Allen ISD - Kerr Classroom Webpage - Ringing Out the News

Describe details of the project

Grant Number	622
Campus/Student Information	
Your campus:	Kerr Elementary
Will other campus' be involved/impacted by this grant?	<input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Yes
Your grade(s):	1
Will other grades be involved/impacted?	<input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Yes
Project Purpose	
What is the problem, need, or opportunity that this grant will address? Explain what students will know and be able to do as a result of this project and/or how a problem will be addresses and/or how a situation improved because of the grant. (500 words or less.)	
<p>"WOW! This is like magic!" exclaimed a first grader as we were demonstrating force with magnets. Science is like magic to the eyes of a child where little experiments provide for wonderment and questioning. It is where we can imagine, invent and inspire. Kids love to wonder and that is the seed of science. There is an old Chinese Proverb that states:</p> <p>"Tell me and I'll forget; Show me and I may remember; Involve me and I'll understand."</p> <p>The purpose of this project is designed to provide and involve first grade students with hands-on and process-based experiences to heighten a child's interest and achievement in the scientific process.</p> <p>The goal is to provide a positive attitude toward science processes while building critical thinking skills and written expression</p>	

necessary for achieving science literacy. Students' reading and writing achievement will improve through activities while fostering a desire for meaningful and personal experiences with science. Using science tools in the classroom assists reasoning and problem solving and is in keeping with the progressive movement of discovery and inquiry-based learning. Many of our science materials are shared among all classes. It's imperative that supplies be accessible to all students in each classroom. Manipulative use enables all students, from those with lesser capability to those of greatest ability, to remain engaged with the content. Thus, learning with the hands-on engaging technique, allow for differentiated instruction. We desire to provide our classrooms with live specimens such as snails, worms and tadpoles. Children will observe and record their discoveries in personal science journals. Kerr Elementary is generally a school of high achievers. However, a need to enrich and broaden our science learning has been identified; it is necessary to start the process in the early years.

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? (500 words or less.)

The "Always Wonder, Always Question!" program will be implemented to enhance our present science curriculum including the new objectives that will be introduced next year. Our ninety first graders will be provided with science tools that afford a link for the concrete thinker to better understand scientific ideas. Mini-lessons will be taught at the beginning of each session to guide students on specific objectives. Students will be free to explore the objective with the provided materials. Risk-taking will be encouraged for developing the understanding of required skills.

The "Always Wonder, Always Question!" grant will not only improve academic achievement in science, but will also strengthen writing and communication skills. Students will be given opportunities to create a science journal and work as an individual or in cooperative groups. Photographs will be taken of children as they inquire and create using the materials to hypothesize and make conclusions of their experiment and discoveries. The photos will be used for future discussions, science journals and to share with friends, family and peers. As an experienced primary teacher, I have concluded that:

-A large and varied assortment of science tools in the classroom is a vital ingredient in improving science performance. We must surround children with opportunities that enhance problem solving and experimentation.

-Writing everyday is essential for students to become proficient. Suitable mentor texts provide models for children preparing them for the writing process for all subject matter.

-Science and writing are connected with problem solving. When students can explain their reasoning, they are elevating themselves to a higher order of thinking.

Kerr Elementary has a growing diverse population. There are a number of students that enter first grade being identified as at-risk. We also have a high number of students with English as their second language. As educators, we desire that all children be achieving at grade-level or above. There is a need to provide students with readily available materials that promote learning by effective means. Our classrooms need to be enriched with unique materials that will promote engaging learning for a balanced science program.

A handbook will be made to distribute to parents with suggested helps and strategies. Learning does not stop at school, but continues in the home environment. The helps will include literacy and math strategies along with science investigations for home. The cover will identify the Foundation for Allen Schools as the provider of grant funding for the project.

Project Summary

Provide a brief summary for use on the Foundation's website and social media. (2-3 brief sentences)

Pictures will be posted on our classroom webpage and Twitter showing our science projects funded by the Foundation for Allen Schools. Pictures will also be available to Regina Taylor to post if desired on the Allen Foundation website.

Allen ISD Goals/ TEKS

Which Allen ISD goals/TEKS does this project support? Provide only two or three examples.

1.2 Scientific investigation and reasoning. The student develops abilities to ask questions and seek answers in classroom and outdoor investigations.

1.3 Scientific investigation and reasoning. The student knows that information and critical thinking are used in scientific problem solving.

1.4 Scientific investigation and reasoning. The student uses age appropriate tools and models to investigate the natural world.

Measurement

What specific measurements will be used to evaluate the effectiveness of the project? (500 words or less)

Objective #1:

By the end of the 2017-18 school year, 85% of the participating students will improve by at least 50% on their expressive language and scientific vocabulary when writing in their science journals.

Evaluation #1:

There will be a comparative analysis, using a teacher-made rubric, of the student's first science journal entries in September of 2017 and their last in May of 2018.

Objective #2:

In May of 2017, 85% of the targeted students will demonstrate a 50% improvement on a teacher-made test of basic science skills that correlate with the science TEKS (objectives).

Evaluation #2

A pretest will be given the second week of school and a post-test administered in May. A comparison of the two sets of scores will be analyzed.

Teaching Methods

What teaching methods will be used to implement this project? (500 words or less.)

Science instruction in our classroom will involve active participation and will be implemented daily. Mini-lessons will be provided at the beginning of each session using videos, tools, and literature to guide students on the focused objective. Writing, along with science, will be an essential element in the program. The children will be encouraged to explore and document findings in their science journal. The scientific process of asking questions, constructing a hypothesis, testing the hypothesis, analyzing data and communicating their results will be taught and encouraged in their science studies. Science stations will also be implemented in the classroom that provide for remediation as well as enrichment for the advanced learner.

Timeline

What is the project timeline and the date of implementation?

July 2017

- Compile an informational handbook for parents
- Make rubric and pre/post assessment tool
- Attend an Allen science workshop

August 2017

- Administer pre-science assessment
- Training of students in the classroom with procedures and materials available
- Introduce the Science Journal to first graders

September-April 2017-2018

- Ordering of materials
- Organize and examine supplies/materials as they are delivered
- Send parents Science Handbook detailing grant provided by the Foundation for Allen Schools
- Science assessments administered to track progress, learning needs and interests
- A class science project will be submitted to the Kerr Science Fair
- Display science materials and journals at Open House.
- Post pictures on webpage/Twitter
- Explanation of the Foundation for Allen Schools and thanks for provisions of grant funds throughout the year in our classroom newsletter

Focus on:

- Improving writing through science journals
- Use of science tools/experiments to improve critical thinking skills

May 2012

- Administer post-science assessment
- Examine test results to determine if objectives have been met
- Final expenditure and project completion reports to Foundation and principal

Dissemination:

- Send weekly newsletters to parents informing of classroom activities and science projects
- Update the principal periodically along with the and final report to the Foundation For Allen Schools
- Children share their journals and experiment discoveries with peers and families
- Share ideas with other first grade team members
- Share handbook which includes science, reading, math and writing activities with parents, team members, and other school campuses upon request
- Display projects at Open House featuring grant materials; Information will be shared about The Foundation For Allen Schools

Curriculum/System Support

Explain how this idea or project enhances/supports Allen ISD curriculum or existing systems.

The "Always Wonder, Always Question!" project can easily be replicated throughout Allen ISD in the primary grades. Teachers in Allen ISD may share the handbook with parents that give suggested activities and sample questions for their children. It is documented that parents are willing to help, but many do not know how to proceed. The parent handbook will offer suggested science activities, math, writing and reading strategy guidelines in maintaining the learning process at home. The way students invest out-of-school time is a critical factor in determining their academic success. Therefore, educators have an obligation to encourage positive and meaningful family involvement in the education process. Parents may help their child develop scientific concepts, build vocabulary, and foster an attitude of curiosity outside the classroom framework. Lesson plans and thematic units will be shared with other school campuses upon request

Budget details

Budget Details ** All awarded funds will be available by September of the next school year.

Budget Item	Item Type	Unit Cost	Quantity	Total Cost
Tadpoles	Instructional Supplies or Resources	15.0	4	60.0
Snails	Instructional Supplies or Resources	10.0	4	40.0
Worms	Instructional Supplies or Resources	5.0	5	25.0
Big Book Journals	Instructional Supplies or Resources	1.35	90	121.5
Dirt/cups/seeds	Instructional Supplies or Resources	30.0	1	30.0
Science STEM kits	Instructional Supplies or Resources	49.99	1	49.99
Motion Discovery Tubes	Instructional Supplies or Resources	29.99	1	29.99
Force and Motion Activity Lab	Instructional Supplies or Resources	59.99	1	59.99
Science Paperback Library	Instructional Supplies or Resources	95.0	16	95.0
Science Instant Learning Centers	Instructional Supplies or Resources	29.99	4	119.96
shipping	Other Expenses	60.0	1	60.0

BUDGET TOTAL 691.43

Are there any additional funds available for this grant? Campus or District Funds? PTA funds? Let us know if you have or will be seeking funds from other sources to help with this project.

Additional funds? No Yes

Signature page and principal contact

Principal Approval Required

Please provide the Name and Email of your PRINCIPAL. (Not your name)

First Name	Last Name	Email Address(Completed)
Lara	Utecht	Lara_utecht@allenisd.org

Applicant Signature

By entering my name below I signify that I understand that if I move within the District and have written the grant myself, I may take the grant with me to my school (as long as it is appropriate for my classes). If I have written the grant as part of a team, I

will leave the grant behind with the team. If I leave AISD, I will leave the grant with the school for which I wrote the grant. As a condition of this grant, I will complete an evaluation form provided by the Foundation.

Signature Regena Bell

Date 03/13/2017

Principal's approval form

I certify that this would be a good use of funds for our school and this grant supports the district goals and/or our campus improvement plans. **Do NOT include any identifiers, such as: campus name, your name, teachers name or mascot **

No actions possible.

Comments

Allen ISD promotes students learning through discovery. The Science TEKS are changing as well as the need for new resources to support the Science curriculum. This grant supports all of these components, hands on learning, align to new Science TEKS, and resources for teachers and parents to further engage students. This grant also would support the district instructional goals of the continuous need to Always Question, Always Wonder.

History and final disposition of application

State Change History

State Change *****
03/13/2017 21:34:20
Submitted

State Change *****
03/14/2017 09:23:03
Accepted

Grant Status

Grant Awarded Yes
 No

Award Amount 692