

## **SUTEP Partnership School Grant**

### **iPad 2 in the Classroom**

**Submitted by: Vyanne Fisher**

#### **Project Rationale**

The students in my classroom are more technologically savvy than any other group of students I have taught. Bringing an iPad with all of its many resources would encourage all students to participate. If we fail to use the technology that many students are familiar with, then we are doing the students a disservice.

One way I would like to use the iPad would be to have conversations with students in other parts of the state. I have many teacher friends that I could connect with and establish learning communities throughout the state. We could do this through Facetime or Skype. Students can track their assignments, take notes, and study for finals. Teachers can give lessons, monitor progress, and stay organized. And that's just the beginning. I know with only 1 in the classroom, it will be limited slightly but the Apps that are available are limitless. I can also use the other technology in my classroom to make the iPad available to the whole class through the use of a document camera to my ActiveBoard. Every morning my students complete centers. I have 6 different stations and all the students rotate through all the stations. Then we change seats and teams. These centers are always high-interest; high-learning centers and I would use the iPad during this time. An example of a center rotation would include puzzle, computer time, constructing a marble run, Mad Libs, learning how to play UNO fairly, and a mind bender activity. An iPad would be perfect for this time of day because the students work together in small groups to complete each rotation and they could use it for Meteor Math, Sparklefish (Mad

Libs activity), analogies, Stack the States, and many, many other things. I look forward to discovering new Apps that could be used in this small group center setting, as well as whole group lessons.

### **School/University Collaboration**

Fairview and Western Carolina University are already so closely connected that adding technology will only strengthen this collaboration. I look forward to using the iPad with the intern in my classroom to strengthen her lessons as well as make them more accessible to university resources. I think other students at Western could benefit from seeing the great things Ms. Conley is doing in my classroom. I am positive Ms. Conley would use the technology given to find new ways to entice students to learn. Teaching is about performing now and keeping students attention and technology is a great resource to assist with this. I think it would be wonderful if my classroom could Skype with a professor at Western so the professors can see exactly what is happening in the classroom. This would be a fast, easy way to assess the Interns. I still believe in the idea of face to face instruction, but technology always adds some level of excitement to the lessons.

### **Enhancing student learning and promoting the development of 21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills**

I think technology is the biggest way we can prepare students for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. The students are already so technologically savvy, that not utilizing those skills is ridiculous. Since the introduction of cell phones, laptops, iPods, PSP's, and iDS's students are able to use technology very efficiently. Students are already very familiar with the technology. I like the quote by John Dewey that says, "If we teach today as we taught yesterday, we rob our children of tomorrow." We must prepare students to compete in a technologically advanced world and

work place so allowing them to use technology and having it available is vital to educating children.

### **Impact**

Placing iPads in classrooms will impact the students in the classroom for this school year as well as students in years to come. My goal is to start with one iPad and add more to them as I receive more money. I also hope to add more Apps as they become available so the impact is great this year and it will extend for several more years. iPads are durable and have a very long life even when in the hands of children. I have already talked to some of my teacher friends on the coast of North Carolina and they can't wait until we are able to talk about weather across the state, while the students are able to see it over Skype. I think it would be a great experience for someone living on the coast to see our beautiful fall foliage. This would be one way for students in that area to see/visit places they would normally not be able to see. The possibilities can even extend across the country and world. I have family in France so my students could possibly see what a day in the life over there would be like.

### **Plan for evaluating project effectiveness**

I will know this project is effective through observation and participation. If the students are interested in something they are going to be actively engaged in the lessons. I will also give a survey at the end of the year to determine how each student felt about the iPad. Our classroom has lots of technology already and I see the effectiveness of it so I feel that by adding another component, the students will see more possibilities.

### **How the money will help**

Money is tight for all school systems around the country right now, so any projects that can be funded by a grant are very much appreciated. I truly believe in reaching students through

a variety of methods and without grant money alternative methods are not available. iPads cost approximately \$600 and the Apps can add up also. If the iPad is purchased through grant money then I could purchase the Apps and buy other things to interest the students.

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### **Summary**

“If we teach today as we taught yesterday, we rob our children of tomorrow.” This quote by John Dewey is how teachers must think about education. Technology is everywhere around us and it would be a huge disservice to our students to avoid it or miss out on the opportunities it provides. The students are interested in and know a lot about technology and teachers should use that interest to engage them. Bringing an iPad 2 into the classroom would allow students to do things and interact with people they would not normally get to. The apps that are available for an iPad are endless and highly engaging for students. Just today, the students used a borrowed IPAD 2 and created their own Mad Libs with their voice. This was a great way to review our study of parts of speech and all students were actively engaged.

Detailed budget for SUTEP Partnership School Grant

Item	Estimated Amount
32 GB iPad 2	\$599 + tax
iTunes gift card for applications to be downloaded to iPad (Kindle app, vocabulary word games, math attack, analogies, skype, Sparklefish, and MANY others)	~\$100.00



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Dear SUTEP Committee,

This letter is in support of the iPad project proposed by Vyanne Fisher, Fourth grade teacher at Fairview School. I have observed the students in her classroom and concur that they are both technologically savvy and also enthusiastic users of technology to support their learning. Mrs. Fisher uses existing technology such as a Promethean Interactive Whiteboard and Active Expressions student response devices to engage the children in lessons that cross all subject areas.

I feel certain that the use of an iPad in her classroom would be innovative, engaging, and support the curriculum in meaningful ways. This proposal will also provide Western Carolina University student Interns with opportunities to observe and participate in the integration of technology in an authentic context.

I endorse this proposal fully.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nancy Luke". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Nancy Luke, PhD

Assistant Professor, Elementary Education

School of Teaching and Learning