**100% For Kids Grant—Albion Library**

**1.Describe the purpose of the project:**

The Albion Middle School library has recently acquired eighteen Kindles to check out to students. Many teachers at Albion have classroom sets of novels that are used in their courses, but not enough books for the students to check out. They also have a number of supplemental texts that support their curriculum, but only a few copies to disperse among the students. With the 100% for Kids Mini Grant the library would be able to purchase twenty to thirty e-books that students could check out that support the Science, Social Studies and Language Arts curriculum. Each book purchased can be loaded onto six different Kindles, making the reach of this funding request extend further than with print books. A number of these novels also have a text to speech function that will assist students who have difficulty with reading and vocabulary. Five percent of the school’s population is resource students who would greatly benefit from this accommodation. Ninth grade world geography and biology students, eighth grade U.S. history students, and seventh grade reading and Utah studies students would benefit from this grant. Teachers can use the books to support teaching concepts in their respective core curricula.

**2.How does this project encourage and showcase educational best practices?**

**One of the main purposes of this grant is to provide students with self-selected reading options that support the curriculum in various subject areas. Krashen and McQuillan (2007, p. 70) assert that, “**The success of in-school, self-selected reading programs provides clear evidence that late intervention through free reading works.” Students who struggle with reading can greatly benefit from self-selected reading. They go on to explain that, “The most crucial conditions are that students have sufficient access to interesting reading material”(Krashen and McQuillan, 2007, p. 71). Self-selection promotes autonomy within students, which in turn promotes motivation. This autonomy is a major component within the Constructivist learning theory (Lee, 2007).

Teachers have different ways of implementing self-selected reading that support their curriculum. For example, in the World Geography classes the teacher asks students to select a book that is set in the country that they are currently studying. Through reading these books students can gain a better understanding of what it is like to live in that particular country. Likewise, Biology students are asked to read a science-based book and give a one-page report on it, connecting any concepts learned in class to what they read. In the Utah History classes, students choose books by authors from Utah. Reading and Language arts teachers have students read books from different genre types throughout the course of a year as part of a “Reading Passport.” The library-media teacher will highlight and publicize the new e-books through classroom book talks, bulletin boards, the library website, library Facebook page and Twitter account.

With this grant we will be able to purchase twenty to thirty books, providing students with the opportunity for self-selection among a variety of books of many reading levels. Part of what makes self-selection so effective is students’ ability to choose the correct level of difficulty for their skill level.

**3.What aspects of the project would be most interesting to parents, students, educators, and the general public?**

**There are a number of aspects that would interest the community and students associated with Albion Middle School. Specifically, parents might be interested to know that the use of e-books provides students with the opportunity to use the text to speech function on the Kindle; this allows students who struggle with vocabulary or reading to receive support whenever they pick their book up to read. The community might not realize that the purchasing of these e-books will increase circulation to the school library, providing students with exposure to the resources there and encouraging them to utilize these resources.**

**Another aspect of this project that would be interesting to parents is the cost effectiveness of using the Kindles to hold new books. Each book purchased can be put on six different Kindles, allowing the library to use the grant in a cost effective way. Parents might also be interested in this new technology being used by the librarian and teachers to promote reading. Albion has had Kindles in the library since September, and they are constantly circulating. Students are excited to use the new technology, and the addition of new titles will create additional interest.**

**4.Please provide specific examples of quantifiable benefits resulting from the project.**

**The benefits of student-selected reading in conjunction with Silent Sustained Reading can be seen through a number of ways within the school setting. Firstly, ”Studies show that students who enjoy reading also read more books and develop better skills in reading comprehension, spelling and vocabulary”(Gardiner, 2001, p. 33). These benefits can be seen through the bi-annual Student Reading Inventory assessment that is administered to all students at Albion Middle School.**

**The acquisition of these books will also increase library circulation, which will be measured through library circulation statistics collected by the library’s cataloging system and the librarian. Similarly, each student who checks out a Kindle will fill out a Kindle Survey, provided by the librarian, to track which books are being read.**

**Within the classroom, each teacher will have assignments in conjunction with the self-selected books to evaluate the students’ understanding and the benefits of reading the texts.**

**5.Describe how this project meets the Mini-Grant qualifications:**

**The purchase of these e-books will supplement teachers’ classroom libraries; this will affect** two U.S. history teachers, two world geography teachers, three seventh-grade reading teachers, one language arts teacher, and one science teacher.

**The librarian and the teachers worked in collaboration to select the titles chosen. These books will be owned by the school and be accessed through the library. Every student in the school will have access to these e-books for academic as well as recreational reading. The e-books will be used for curriculum supported reading in Social Studies, Language Arts and Science classrooms. This is the first year that the Albion Middle School Library has had Kindles; receiving these e-books will support that innovative instructional technology. The librarian initially purchased the Kindles to be used both recreationally and academically; receiving the funding for these books will allow the Kindles to be used in an academic setting.**

**6.Total budget for project and detailed list of items. Be specific; list items to be purchased and approximate cost:**

**(please see attached excel file)**

**7.If your request is granted, how do you plan to maintain the item(s) requested?**

**The items will be maintained in a number of ways. The items can be checked out from the library on one of the eighteen Kindles; the check out process is similar to the process used with other books in the library. To insure accountability, in order to check out Kindles, students and their parents must sign an Acceptable Use document accepting responsibility for using the device. All Kindles are electronically engraved with information about the school to assure device security. The Kindles are also included in the district’s assets. The librarian will place information about the books on the Kindles in the online catalog to be accessed by students. Similarly, within the library catalog, the books will be marked as being available on the Kindles and as being funded by a 100% for Kids grant.**

**8.What is your school's current inventory of the materials applied for?**

**The library currently has only one or two print copies of the titles selected. The library has no books being used for academic purposes on the Kindles; at the present time they are only being used for recreational reading. The Albion library has eighteen Kindles on which to put the e-books.**

**9. What other resources have you looked into for funding this project?**

**The Albion PTA and book fair funded the purchase of the Kindles; the librarian has used fine money and other sources to fund the addition of books to the Kindles.**

**Research Supporting Project:**

Gardiner, S. (2001). Ten Minutes a Day for Silent Reading. *Educational Leadership*, *59*(2), 32.

Krashen, S., & McQuillan, J. (2007). The Case for Late Intervention. *Educational Leadership*, *65*(2), 68-73.

Lee, S.-ying. (2007). Revelations from Three Consecutive Studies on Extensive Reading. *RELC Journal*, *38*(2), 150 -170. doi:10.1177/0033688207079730