

Re: Northeast Washington Education Council mini-grant.

Project description:

1. School demographics: Ness Elementary is 68% free and reduced with over 30% mobility. We have a growing English Language Learner population consisting of Marshallese, Spanish, and Russian speaking students. We provide students with a snack each day and 50 of our students receive a bite to go bag on Thursdays, provided by a community church.
2. Need: With technology use on the rise and students using chrome books frequently for various needs including but not limited to; math programs/curriculum, test prep, research for projects, and coding or video making, my students would benefit from having a mouse and set of headphones. A class set (25 of each) would be useful when all students are working on various projects at once rather than interrupting each other with videos or listening tools they may be using.
My second need is a book called "Picture Perfect STEM Lessons" This book has lessons designed to meet the needs of all learners with ready-made teacher masters that follow the STEM design process. The need for this supplemental resource is to reach all NGSS standards that our current science curriculum may miss.
3. Project: The headphones would be used for listening portions of testing, for making their own video book reports and other projects, as well as watching videos as a listening tool for reading comprehension.
These would be used weekly and sometimes daily. The STEM book would be used as a supplement for my current curriculum. After attending a science leadership meeting at ESD early this winter I saw the book and came back and taught a combined 4th and 5th grade lesson on hurricanes and levees. I would continue to collaborate with other teachers in my building especially the teacher I teamed with previously to continue working together on these STEM lessons.
4. Benefits: Headphones and mice would benefit all students in my classroom because having a set for everyone gives all students access to them at any time. Students who get distracted easily would have the ability to put headphones on and keep the noise out. I also have a few students with fine motor challenges, having a mouse would allow them to use the computer more easily than with the touch pad.
Picture Perfect STEM lessons is an engaging tool that teaching kid's science in way that excited them. With a mentor text idea provided, vocabulary lessons built in, a hands on portion and sometimes even a geography connection- these lessons are cross curricular and high interest. Collaborating with teachers on rich activities for kids is a benefit for both me as well as my students.