

INSTRUCTIONAL TECHNOLOGY GRANT PROPOSAL

Name of Applicant: Tiffany Gibson

District/School: Westside Elementary School

Date: 7/14/16

Total Cost of Project: \$1313.12

Title of Project: Parents, Never Stop Improving Center

To what organization will you submit this grant application in the future?: Lowe's Toolbox for Education Grant

- I. Why is this project important (In 2-3 paragraphs, describe the need for the project and its relevance to the shared vision for instructional technology)?

Historically speaking, Westside Elementary School has had a low rate of parent involvement. A parent involvement center would give parents a place to feel comfortable. It would give them a place to call their own and get resources and help with technology. Traditionally parents believe that things are so different now than it was when they were in school. This center would give parents the opportunity to come in and learn skills that will enable them to feel confident helping their children.

A parent involvement center will be important to Westside because parents will know they are welcome in the school. They will know there are resources available to them and where they can find those resources. They will also know that there are people available to help them. This center will be a bridge between home and school for the parents. Once parents know they have this center available to them, they will be able to be true partners in education with their child's teacher.

- II. What would you like to accomplish (In 2-3 paragraphs, describe the project and list instructional objectives/project outcomes.)?

First, I would like to give parents the opportunity to feel welcome in the school in a space that is designed for them. Second, I would like to give parents the opportunity to learn about and how to use the technology their students are using. Many parents do not have the background knowledge to help their kids with homework especially if it includes working with technology. Last, I would like

to provide a bridge between school and home for parents. It can feel overwhelming walking into a place you are not familiar with. This would give parents a place to know they are welcome.

This project will give parents a resource that they did not have before. Parents will have access to a computer, an iPad, educational games, and other resources. Best of all, they will be able to learn about what their children are learning, so that they can better communicate with and understand their children.

III. How will you complete the work? (Describe how the project will be completed.)

A. Describe how the instructional objectives/project outcomes will be met (2-3 paragraphs).

Steps to be taken:

- Conduct a parent survey as a baseline assessment to see what parent's views are about current resources that are available to them.
- Clean out room that has been designated for the new parent involvement center.
- Purchase paint, furniture, and parent resources for the center.
- Acquire computer and iPad for the parent involvement center from the Polk School District Technology Department
- Once complete, make parents aware of the new parent involvement center.
- Conduct a post-survey for parents to see how their views have changed about the resources that are available to them.

B. Describe the time involved (project length including amount of time each day/week).

Time involved:

- Length to complete project for parents: Two weeks (Five days per week, 5 hours per day)
- Once the center is complete, it will be an on-going project requiring time from staff members weekly

C. Describe the people involved (grade level/subject & # of students, teachers and/or staff, other stakeholders).

People involved:

- Parents
- Office staff (for check-in): two
- Project team-consisting of teachers on a volunteer basis: approximately five or six
- Instructional Technology Specialist: one
- Media Specialist: one

D. Describe the materials needed for the project.

- Paint: Two gallons (21.58 each x 2= \$43.16) <http://www.lowes.com/pd/HGTV-HOME-by-Sherwin-Williams-Infinity-White-Flat-Acrylic-Interior-Paint-and-Primer-In-One-Paint-Actual-Net-Contents-30-75-Fluid-Oz/999988406>
- Paint applicator kit: two (9.98 x 2= \$19.96) <http://www.lowes.com/pd/Blue-Hawk-6-Piece-Paint-Applicator-Kit/50037530>
- Furniture (couch, chairs, table, bookshelves, and decorative items): approximately \$1,000) <http://www.lowes.com/c/Furniture-Home-decor>
- Educational resources: approximately \$250.00 (Will be purchased from a catalogue)

IV. What is the timeline for assessing accomplishments and objectives/project outcomes (In 1-2 paragraphs, describe program evaluation procedure.)?

Parents will be given a survey that will be used as a baseline to see what parent's views are about the current resources available to them. This will take about one to two weeks to complete. They will be completed concurrently with cleaning out and preparing the room that will be the parent involvement center. It will take about two weeks to clean out the room, paint the walls, purchase and receive furniture, organize and decorate the center. Once the center is complete, teachers will begin sending out information to the parents about the new parent involvement center. We will use several means to let the parents and community know including teachers online classrooms, Remind (a parent communication app), social media, the school website, and the school newsletter. Once all of this has been completed, we will allow parents to use the center for three months, we will give parents another survey to assess if they feel the resources available to them have improved since the parent involvement center opened.

V. How will the students be impacted by the project (In 2-3 paragraphs, include details regarding how the impact on students will be assessed and reported to students, parents, teachers, and others.)?

According to an article by the NEA (National Education Association, n.d.), if students have parents that are more involved and more connected, they will have higher grades, be promoted, attend school regularly, have better social skills, and graduate high school. Jeynes (2005) said "not only does voluntary parental involvement have an influence, but parental programs do as well. Therefore, schools should adopt strategies to enhance parental engagement in their children's schooling." In making a parent involvement center for students we will be impacting students for many years to come. The research listed above gives explicit ways in which parental involvement directly and indirectly impacts student achievement.

Once this project has had plenty of time for parents and the community to become aware of it and what resources and benefits it has to offer, we will continue to work with parents and the community to ensure this center is meeting their needs. We will allow for input so that the center will evolve as it needs to. We will also do a spotlight on the school website and in the school newsletter that will highlight what is going on in the parent involvement center. Doing so will serve as a way to communicate how students, parents, and the school is being impacted by the parent involvement center.

VI. What is the proposed budget? Include information on the following:

- A. Materials/supplies: \$1313.12
- B. Equipment : \$0
- C. Total Cost of Proposed Project: \$1313.12
- D. Additional Funding Sources: None

V. List your supporting references.

Lowe's. (2016). Retrieved from lowes.com

Jeynes W. (2005). Parent involvement and student achievement: A meta-analysis. Harvard Family Research Project. Retrieved from <http://www.hfrp.org/publications-resources/browse-our-publications/parental-involvement-and-student-achievement-a-meta-analysis>

National Education Association. (n.d.). Research spotlight on parental involvement in education. *National Education Association*. Retrieved from <http://www.nea.org/tools/17360.htm>

**INSTRUCTIONAL TECHNOLOGY GRANT PROPOSAL
EVALUATION FORM/SCORING RUBRIC**

Total Points (out of 200): _____

1. Impacts a variety of skill levels and/or learning styles or impacts an important target population.

Possible number of points: 40 _____

2. Clearly identifies standards and learning objectives/project outcomes being addressed.

Possible number of points: 40 _____

3. Pedagogically sound, based on research and/or best practices.

Possible number of points: 40 _____

4. Clear plan for assessment of project and goals with examples of implementation methods.

Possible number of points: 40 _____

5. Impacts large number of students and/or can be recycled/reused.

Possible number of points: 40 _____

General Comments:

Adapted from: The Education Foundation of Oconee County, Inc.