



Holdenville Education Foundation
P.O. Box 641 ♦ Holdenville OK 74848
info@hef4ourkids.com

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Grants to Teachers Application Cover Page

School
Part

Date: March 28th, 2013

Grant Title: "Building A+ Readers"

Grant Applicant: Renee Templeton & Beth Black

School: Ethel M. Reed Elementary
Thomas Middle School

Grade Level(s): 3rd-6th

Content Area(s): Directly-Reading
Indirectly-All Subjects

Total Dollar

Amt. Requested: \$9,725.00

9725.00
25225

Renee Templeton

Signature of Grant Applicant

Danielle Patterson

Signature of Building Administrator

Beth Black

Signature of Grant Applicant

Andy Turner

Signature of Building Administrator



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Grants to Teachers Application Form

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"Building A+ Readers"

1. What is the major educational need this grant addresses?

Reading is at the core of learning. Without efficient reading skills, a student's ability to learn is greatly hindered across the curriculum. To be proficient readers, students must be able to read independently, silently, and with good comprehension. It is often a challenge to get our students to this level. Reading Plus is a program that we have found that effectively picks up where phonics and oral instruction leaves off and promotes the fluency skills that are so important for students to become successful.

Reading Plus is an online reading intervention program that increases student's fluency, visual acuity, vocabulary, comprehension, and reading level. It directly teaches skills needed for reading proficiency. Indirectly it teaches science, social studies, history, and even math along with promoting a love of reading in students. The Holdenville Education Foundation has played a crucial part in helping us educate the future of Holdenville. In continuing with this commitment, we are asking for funding to provide this program for our 3rd-6th grade students.

2. Approximately how many pupils will be affected by this project, both directly and indirectly?

The grant would directly impact 200 students, which would be approximately 100 to 120 students at Reed and 80 to 100 students at Thomas. It would indirectly impact every student in our district by potentially raising our test scores and improving our grades on our district and school site report cards.

3. Describe your grant including methods, materials and objectives.

We all know that if we struggle to read something because we are having a hard time reading the words that we don't understand it. Think about if you were reading a medical journal or something completely out of your comfort zone. You would come across words that you didn't know, then you would have to stop, sound it out, use context clues, or simply let it process until you have figured it out. Often times when this happens to us, we have to go back and reread the sentence a couple of times before we understand what it is saying. Now imagine if you had to sound out or reread every word or at least most of them. Most of our struggling readers do the latter. They have to constantly sound out words and are not at all fluent at their current grade level. These students are going to be lucky to pass their achievement tests and with the testing trends now and the "high-stakes" that go along with it, we desperately need to do something to give these kids the upper hand. We believe we have found a program that will help us do this.

What Reading Plus Is...

Reading Plus is an online reading program designed to increase students' silent reading fluency. It also has components that directly teach vocabulary and grade appropriate common core aligned reading skills. In addition, it is designed to indirectly teach science, social studies, history, civics, and many more "life" skills through its extensive library of reading content. Students learn to love the program because they are in control of what they read. The key though is in the fluency that it builds and the confidences you see develop in students. We know that the more fluent we are the more we understand. Therefore, these students' comprehension levels are automatically going to rise. What else rises with fluency? Confidence! Reading Plus can help students to become fluent; therefore, they build self-confidence, which turns in to enjoying reading.

What we've done, what we've learned, and where we want to go...

Throughout the year we test the student's reading levels. The results of these tests are used to establish appropriate placement for each student as well as to assure they are maintaining acceptable growth in their grade level. In general a student would have grown one month in ability when they are tested each month. For the students that are behind, this simply isn't enough. They generally continue to fall farther and farther behind grade level.

We expressed our concern about this when visiting another district. They immediately told us about Reading Plus. The district truly believes that using this program has directly affected their scores and in effect, their district report card. We contacted the company and they have allowed us to use the program on a trial basis since January. In that time we have continued to test our student's progress monthly and we were amazed when they gained 3 months academic growth in the one month! We can't wait to see the impact it will make on the achievement test scores!

We are so excited about this program and would like to implement it permanently. We believe that 3rd grade is a crucial time of students needing to possess fluency skills so we would like to fully implement it in this grade. We believe this would challenge every child to improve their reading skills and become as fluent as possible. In addition, we would like to use the program to target "at risk" students in grades 4th-6th. We firmly believe this will have positive affects on our test scores and district report card.

4. Give a time schedule of implementation.

When the money becomes available we will purchase and begin the set-up and implementation of Reading Plus immediately.

5. Detail your budget request. Include specific information about kinds of materials and equipment needed, sources of supply, and costs (including shipping and handling).

200 Seat License to Reading Plus for 1 year: \$9,725

(no shipping and handling is necessary because it is a program accessible through the internet)

6. What methods will be used for measuring the stated objectives, or what definite evaluation will you make to determine whether the grant was successful? (Please be specific)

The success of this grant can be evaluated in many ways. Of course, State Testing Results improving would be one way. Another would be continually improved outcomes on the STAR Reading Test given monthly. Furthermore, even if we completely forgot the "high stakes" testing and district report cards; we believe building more confident readers and fostering the love of reading in them is worth all of the cost and effort.