

## **Description**

During the 2014/2015 school year I wrote a grant for my Planning for Technology course at the University of Akron. Not only was this an assignment, but the university encouraged us to turn in our grant project to our school district. After completing my assignment, I went to my principal to discuss the grant. After discussing the grant, she approved it, but then it had to go to the technology coordinator for final approval. Eventually, I received approval from the technology coordinator.

## **Impact**

Unfortunately, by the time my grant was approved it was already late in the school year. By the time the Kindles were actually ordered and received, the school year was nearly over. I did not have enough time to implement them the way it was written in the grant. The purpose of the grant was to improve the student's reading ability through the Immersion Reading program and the Kindles. The program allowed the students to either read the book themselves or listen to a professional narration of the story that is read to them. When the students would listen to the professional narration, the words would be highlighted in realtime. This school year, 2015/2016, I no longer teach 5th grade language arts, but instead I teach 4th grade math and social studies. Even though the Kindles aren't being used for their intended purpose, they are still being used in the classroom.

## **Intent**

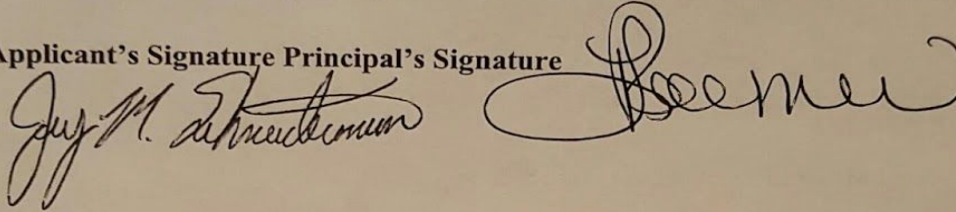
As I stated in my 1:1 computer initiative, my netbooks will be replaced with a set of Chromebooks for the entire 4th grade to share. Without the netbooks, I will rely on the Kindles for the students to use during the Accelerated Math and Xtra Math stations during math class. The students also get in groups to complete Kahoot surveys, discussions, and quizzes. Without the netbooks for my students, I have come to realize how much technology has become a part of my classroom. I intend to talk to my technology coordinator about replacing the netbooks with a set of Chromebooks for my classroom. I also plan on discussing how we can purchase more Kindles for my classroom. Finally, I plan on writing another proposal to my school district to see if I can get more Kindles for my classroom. I currently have 6, but I know I will need 15-20 so each one of my students can use a Kindle.

## My grant proposal (1 of 2)

**Does this proposal require any contribution of resources from other sources: If so, please specify.**

This project does not require any contribution of resources from other sources.

**Applicant's Signature Principal's Signature**

The image shows two handwritten signatures. The first signature, on the left, is written in cursive and appears to be 'Guy M. [unclear]'. The second signature, on the right, is also in cursive and appears to be 'Boemer'.

### Details of the Proposal

#### I. Statement of Need

Since I have been teaching, I have had several students every year that struggle to read, are reluctant to read, or are low readers. Finding ways to help these students improve their reading ability is of highest importance. Whether it's to improve their reading level, increase their scores on state tests, or finding enjoyment while reading, helping students become proficient readers is critical. Using technology like the one proposed in this project will help students become better, more motivated readers.

#### II. Description of the Project and its Purpose

This project combines the benefits of e-books and audiobooks using a program called Immersion Reading. By owning the audiobook version and the Kindle e-book version, Immersion Reading allows the students to read and listen at the same time with real-time highlighting on their Kindle Fire HD. The students can read on their own, or they can listen to a professional narration of the story and follow along because the words are highlighted in real-time. The purpose of this program is mainly to improve a student's reading level. Other purposes of this project is to motivate the reluctant reader to enjoy reading, and to help those students who might struggle to read find ways to help overcome their reading struggles. With this proposal, the students will be able to improve their reading scores on the state tests.

##### A. Objectives

###### *Star Reader - Reading Level Assessment*

For the AR assessment, the students should increase their reading level by 1.5 grade levels from the first assessment during the week of September 2 to their last assessment during the week of May 18th.

###### *Accelerated Reader - Comprehension Assessment*

- Achieve 12 or more AR points each quarter.
- Increase the number of books read each quarter
- increase the number of words read each quarter
- Score an 80% average or above on the comprehension quizzes in AR



## My grant proposal (2 of 2)

Sheffield-Sheffield Lake City School  
Endowment Fund  
Grant Application  
Fall 2014

**Applicants Name:** Jay M. Schneiderman    **Date:** September 29, 2014

**Applicants School/Organization:** Forestlawn Elementary

**Brief Description of Project (for example: develop a course in human relations for ninth graders)** In an effort to improve the student's reading ability, the student's will use a Kindle Fire HD and the Immersion Reading program to help them improve their reading skills. The Immersion Reading program on the Kindle allows the students to either read the e-book or listen to the professional narration of the story. In addition to listening to the professional narration, the words will be highlighted in real-time as it is read. This way the students can see the words as it is read to them. The students will use the Kindles and the Immersion Reading during a 30 minute differentiated class at the end of the day Monday through Friday. During this time, the students will be silently reading a book that is in their Accelerated Reading range. The small group of students that will be using the Kindles during silent reading time will be working with me.

**Amount Requested:** \$1269.15

### **Qualifications of Applicant Relative to Proposal**

I have a degree in Language Arts from Ashland University and I am currently in the Instructional Technology master's program at the University of Akron. I have been teaching in the district for the last 6 years where I have taught Reading\Language Arts each year. For the past 3 years I have successfully implemented the 1:1 computer program in my classroom. Five out of the six years included teaching special education students, and for the past three years I have co-taught with an intervention specialist. For the 2014-2015 school year I will once again be working with intervention specialists teachers and teaching Reading\Language Arts.

### **Principal's Endorsement (Please comment on worthiness of the proposal, budget and qualifications of applicant to successfully complete the project)**

In preparation for the PARCC assessments, I feel this program would benefit (as a resource) to the students' reading abilities on an individual level so that each student could practice and have the opportunity to reach his/her full reading potential.

Mrs. Roemer

Grant approval letter (1 of 2)



Sheffield  
Sheffield Lake  
School Endowment Fund

October 21, 2014

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Congratulations *Jay Schneiderman*, the trustees of the Sheffield-Sheffield Lake Endowment Fund have granted you **\$1,170.15** for **The Kindle Fire / Immersion Reading Grant** you requested. We are happy to be able to support such a fine project and wish you success. **Please see attached from Doug Cogdell.**

So we may properly account for monies awarded and the number of students affected, please complete the Grant Expense Report. Attached is an expense report that **MUST** be filled out and returned with your receipts. This year we are asking all recipients to take some pictures and write up a short report on how their grant money was used. We are going to have the pictures and summaries post at the Steak Fry so people can see how the grant money is spent. All grant money must be used within one year of the grant request.

Once the report is complete and the receipts are attached, a check will be issued. If a special arrangement for the grant money is needed, call Sandy Swearns at 949-6181. The Endowment Committee has asked that if any information is sent home or any announcements or programs are made concerning **The Debits & Credits** that the grant from the Endowment Fund is mentioned.

**FYI:** At the October 19, 2010 meeting of the Endowment Trustees it was voted that the Trustees are only going to grant a maximum of \$100.00 for any incentive or rewards grant with a maximum of five \$100 incentive/reward grants per grant cycle.

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# Grant approval letter (2 of 2)

Sheffield-Sheffield Lake City School  
Endowment Fund  
Grant Application  
Fall 2014

Technology equipment! Need  
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Without districts system.

Applicants Name: Jay M. Schneiderman Date: September 29, 2014

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Good Proposal - Contact Doug for user account & password.

Rather than starting a new

Amazon Account and having the

district lose ownership of the books,

We can use our existing account &

Add his books. This will give him

Access to more books and other

teachers/students can use his keep the

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