

Statement I: PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Fifty years ago students learned about science because they were surrounded with the opportunities to experience science and to learn from observation of natural phenomena. Today, students have more limited range of opportunities to learn about science by direct observation. Even fewer students have the opportunity to explore and read about science on an on-going basis. With the help of science experts, the librarian and 4th grade teacher propose creating a special unit on owls; training students to use journals to record their research and observation; a classroom set of several fiction works about owls; a owl pellets; and a field trip to a Bird Sanctuary Field. If we had additional money, we would purchase copies of nonfiction books to expand the research component, a digital camera to record observations and computer projector so students could easily share their work; and we would also subscribe to science magazines for students. Students will work in teams to research, record and journal about their topics and then will present their finding to the entire class. We also plan to have a family science night so students can share their research with the community and their families.

The objectives of this grant are simple: 1) Students will improve their scientific vocabulary; 2) Students will improve their attitude toward science and 3) Students will improve their writing skills As a result of this grant, students will constantly be learning about science because they will be either reading, writing, presenting or hearing reports about science. Blank research journal books, multiple copies of books, owl pellets for data collection and the field trip will facilitate student research. This grant will have the added bonus of creating the habit of reading about science.

Dona J. Helmer

Statement II: BENEFITS TO STUDENTS

This initial grant will directly benefit 30 4th graders at College Gate School in Anchorage, Alaska. However, we feel it could potentially impact all our students in grades 4, 5, and 6 (approximately 150 students.) The students at College Gate School are representative of the best things in America. However, recently our neighborhood has experienced a rise in single family households, and a general decline in standard of living. The neighborhood has a mix of ethnic groups, some of whom are recent arrivals to America and lack communication skills. This grant will help bilingual students develop vocabulary skills. This grant will demonstrate the value of reading and will improve students' science ability.

Demographic Information: College Gate has a tradition of being a neighborhood school but it is a school in transition. The population in the neighborhood is changing—it is aging and being replaced by single family households. According to the 2000 US Census, the average per capita income was \$20, 628 in the College Gate area. 18.4 % of the families received Supplemental Social Security Income or Public Assistance. Nearly 1 /2 of the student population qualify for free and reduced breakfast and lunch.

Evaluation: Evaluation is both formative and summative. The teacher and librarian will observe attitudes toward the books and science activities and will make anecdotal notes in their journal. Students will write their comments in their journals. Also, pre-experience and post-experience scores on standardized tests will be analyzed and compared.

Statement III: USE OF FUNDS

The Reading, Writing and Thinking like Scientists grant proposes creating a special unit on owls, using class sets of books and science blank journals to help students in 4th grade expand their knowledge of science and recent discoveries while building their basic scientific vocabulary and understanding of scientific principles. If funded at a greater level, we propose adding additional students and more nonfiction works, electronic access to science research materials and digital cameras, printers and a computer projector so students can share their work easily. We also propose developing a series of family science nights for the community.

\$2,000 Award

Line item 1	Blank Journals, books, materials	\$1500.00
Line item 2	Field Trip	\$ 500.00
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Total		\$2000.00

Additional \$5,000 Award

Line item 1	Nonfiction books, class magazines	\$3000.00
Line item 2	Digital cameras and supplies	\$2000.00
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Total		\$5000.00

Additional \$10,000 Award

Line item 1	Science Reference, shelving	\$ 8000.00
Line item 2	Computer projector and supplies	\$ 2000.00
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Total		\$10000.00

Additional \$25,000 Award

Line item 1	Online Science Reference & e-books	\$ 8000.00
Line item 2	Add additional science topics & students	\$12000.00
Line item 3	ipods or e-book readers	\$ 5000.00
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Total		\$25,000.00