

WICHITA FALLS ISD IDEA GRANTS FUNDED
Fall 2007-2008
Abstract

Teacher Name: Shelley Yeakley School: Cunningham Subj. or Gr. Lvl. Science 5th
Title: **“High Five” Science**

Abstract: Using a Saturday School format, our 5th grade students will have an opportunity to “Fly High” with hands-on motivational activities covering each of the four TAKS Objectives through the 5 E Model. Specialized focus on the Physical and Earth Sciences will be given using advanced lab instructional supplies and lessons from the Kamico Developmental Series will provide additional reinforcement. Review will be a breeze with mobiles made by the students and hung “high” with pride as a reminder of their learning experiences. Plenty of “High Fives” will be given for a job well done!

Teacher Name: Nancy Kizis School: Rider Subj. or Gr. Lvl. Art/Science 9-12th
Title: **The Science of Art**

Abstract: Science students will create tiles with a Bas-relief design of an invertebrate on it. After firing, students will glaze tiles and tiles will be mounted in science for permanent installation. The major objectives are to reinforce student learning in science and to teach them art concepts as well. Lastly, the science would have a colorful installation of art/science.

Teacher Name: Susan Buckley School: Cunningham Subj. or Gr. Lvl. 2nd grade
Title: **Money Doesn’t Grow on Trees (or Does It?)**

Abstract: Understanding money is difficult for most young children and I want to give the students some practical experiences using money in real life. I believe this will help them in better understanding money. Not only will the students be able to count, add, subtract, and estimate money in school, but also understand about certain financial aspects that adults in our society must understand and use in everyday life. Using the math lessons learned in class, we will expand upon them in the real world.

Teacher Name: Rebecca Hitchcock School: Haynes Subj. or Gr. Lvl. 4/5/6
Title: **Quiet Education in the Relaxation Station**

Abstract: Quiet Education in the Relaxation Station would provide students with emotional and behavioral disabilities an alternative educational setting. While in comfy bean bag rockers under soft lights, students can calm themselves through deep breathing, personal relaxation techniques, and personal CD players playing relaxation music. Once students have centered themselves and lowered their anxiety levels, they will work with the Brain Game to assist them with closing the brain functions as reported by new neuroscientific research from the combined efforts of Dr. Ryuta Kawashima and the education, neuroscience and cognitive psychology departments at Nagoya University and Kyoto Education University.

Teacher Name: Brian Bass, Faith Brady, Katie Chaves, Nikki Deaver, Crystal Duke, Bethany Horschler, Tiffany Hutchison, Doris Megonigal, Angie Vaughn School: Fannin/Huey Subj. or Gr. Lvl. Pre-K/K
Title: **Joint Ventures of Flat Stanley**

Abstract: We would like to create a “Flat Stanley” project based on Jeff Brown’s book called *Flat Stanley* for the Pre-K and K students at Fannin and Huey. Students from both campuses will have the opportunity to participate in correspondence through “Flat Stanley,” and come together in culminating events. The three culminating events would include touring the site of the new Fannin and Huey Elementary, a picnic at Scotland Park, and the 2008 Flat Stanley Olympics. Many of our students have limited resources and experiences and this would allow them to participate in multicultural activities. These activities would promote students from different cultures to work cooperatively together as a group, build character education skills, and improve students’ academic success in reading, writing, math, science and social studies.

Teacher Name: Patti Golden School: Bonham Subj. or Gr. Lvl. Language Arts 5th grade
Title: **Speeding Student Success with MP3 Players**

Abstract: ESL students and struggling students will benefit from a multi-media approach to academic material. Students will have access to MP3 players loaded with content area songs, teacher lectures and demonstrations. Students will be able to listen and review class material. Students will be able to play student and teacher designed games such as “Language Arts Jeopardy,” “Social Studies Pyramid,” and other content specific games. Students will be able to write and record their own songs. Students will be able to access iPod lessons on the internet and download ebooks. Students will be able to choose material added to the players with teacher approval. This program has exciting implications, especially for ESL students. At an elementary school in New York, media specialist, Grace Poli, said her Spanish-speaking students – known around the school as Pod People – have been able to move out of bilingual classes after just a year of using the digital devices, compared with an average of four to six years for most bilingual students.” –NEA Morning Update 10/09/07.

Teacher Name: Michelle Keller, Alyssa Newcomb, Stacy Watson, Jessica Chavez School: Ben Milam Subj. or Gr. Lvl. 1st grade
Title: **Unlocking the Magic!**

Abstract: In an effort to reach our more advanced learners, we would like to challenge them by encouraging reading at a more intellectual level and working in a group of like-minded children to enhance their learning experience. By using the Magic Tree House chapter book series, our children will be exposed to many different areas of science and social studies. We plan to have our advanced thinkers read these books and engage in critical thinking extension activities that stem from the subject area in a particular book. For example, they would spend one to two weeks immersing themselves in all they can find about the Ice Age (after reading #7 in the series, Sunset of the Saber tooth). They will be actively involved in several open-ended activities to be completed cooperatively through utilizing research and technology.

Teacher Name: Claire Ross School: Bonham Subj. or Gr. Lvl. Lang. Arts/ Social Studies 6th grade
Title: **Learning About Cultures through their Art**

Abstract: Students will investigate the traditions and cultures of Europe, Australia and Central America through primary and secondary sources. Students will use high order thinking skills to create a class blog on their views of what art means to different societies based on their traditions and belief systems. Students will support their views in graphic organizers. Students will then produce original artwork inspired from the traditions and beliefs of these different world cultures. This will create the opportunity for students to learn about the similarities and differences within cultures in a high interest way. Ultimately the students will be able to describe how societies influence creative expression.

Teacher Name: Annette Pierce, Melissa Rodriguez School: Sheppard Subj. or Gr. Lvl. 5th grade
Title: **Wildlife Survivor: Adaptations and Habitats at the Wichita Mountains**

Abstract: Imagine adapting to one of the four major habitats; rocklands, aquatic, mixed-grass prairie, and cross timbers; of the Wichita Mountains. Students will conduct research about the habitats and adaptations of various animals and plants found in the Wichita Mountains by integrating Science, Language Arts, and Technology. Each fifth grade student will create two pages of a class book and two slides for a class PowerPoint slide show using their research. Recognizing the importance of hands-on experiences, the fifth grade students will also use the information obtained to create matching and sorting games to reinforce the knowledge they and their peers have gained. At the same time, students will participate in Science Survivor Camp to review their knowledge of Life Science, Physical Science, Earth Science, and Nature of Science. To culminate their research and interactive practice on habitats and adaptations, the students will travel to the Wichita Mountains to complete a scavenger hunt looking for examples of the adaptations and habitats they learned about with their research and student-created games. While at the Wichita Mountains, the scavenger hunt will afford the students the opportunity to review Earth Science concepts already acquired.

Teachers Jill Batchelor, Kathy Collier, Samantha Kintner, Vicki Lamb,
Laura Mayfield, Rinette Ross School: Kirby Subj. or Gr. Lvl. Language Arts Dept.
7th & 8th grade

Title: **Kirby Champ Camp**

Abstract: Kirby wants to continue our tradition of combining hard work and extra effort to equal successful students. We plan to require weekly attendance at one hour after school “workout” sessions for up to eighty students who have not performed successfully on prior Reading TAKS assessments or who are determined to be in need of additional assistance. Students who attend 5/6 practice sessions will be invited to an afternoon at Camp Chaparral for hands-on drills covering three objectives, organized games, and a celebratory hot dog roast before the TAKS on March 4th for 8th graders. Kirby Champ Camp will continue weekly practice sessions for 7th graders until they take the TAKS Reading test on April 30. We will also include those 8th graders who didn’t pass the first time and are preparing for their second chance over the summer. Attending 5/6 afternoons will earn a reward afternoon including a tour of Vernon Regional Junior College (by Ramona Vaughn), hands on study sessions at the college, and a movie at Carmike Theater. Our goal is to be TAKS Champions – 100% 8th grade mastery and an exemplary status for the 7th graders.

Teacher Name: Cheryl Wilson, Kristy Bishop School: Fain Subj. or Gr. Lvl. Science/Language Arts
5th grade

Title: **Science Rocks and Writes!**

Abstract: Through inquiry based labs students will learn properties of certain rocks and minerals that will help them to identify these rocks and minerals. This in turn will help them on the TAKS test since students historically have had more problems with the Earth Science concepts. Students will also be able to see and manipulate materials that are a part of the Rock Cycle; the sedimentary, igneous and metamorphic rocks. This will be accomplished through several labs, one dealing with identification of an unknown mineral by use of the Moh’s Hardness Scale, Streak and Calcite tests. Another lab will involve the parts of the Rock Cycle and how rocks are changed from one kind to another. In addition, there will be labs centering on coal as a nonrenewable rock that undergoes four stages of development and how this relates to supply. Following each lab and activity students will write their lab results using the Scientific Method format.

Teacher Name: Linda Bishop, Amy Chapman School: Washington/Jackson Subj. or Gr. Lvl. 1st grade

Title: **To Be or Not to Be!**

Abstract: Our first grade classes have a large number of At Risk students. As first grade teachers, we have found that children learn best if they can be physically involved in the learning process. “To be or Not To Be” is a grant request for two puppet stages which will act as catalysts for children to learn how to sequence events, write simple plays, and act as incentives for them to learn how to read with expression. The skills involved in play productions will increase reading skills and comprehension levels.

Teacher Name: Allison Anderson School: Jefferson Subj. or Gr. Lvl. Kindergarten

Title: **The Cabbage Patch Kids**

Abstract: Jefferson has an undeveloped semi-enclosed area that would be perfect for a kinder “garden.” The kindergarten students would be introduced to and study seasons, living organisms, and the natural world using their Breakthrough to Literacy computer books and related activities. We would observe, explore, and prepare the area for plants, insects, and birds as the seasons of autumn, winter, and spring change during our school year. While exploring all the above objectives we will not only learn about the science of our world, but we will create a special place where we can go for an unusual snack time and a peaceful story time.

Teacher Name: Angela Hale, Kristi Milstead, Carrie Minniear, Becky Rogers, Judy Vann School: Franklin Subj. or Gr. Lvl. Science 4th grade

Title: **Family Science Carnival**

Abstract: Science Family Carnival is an opportunity for children and their parents to explore science concepts through a variety of fun and exciting activities. Getting families involved in their children's education in positive ways, such as through a Family Science Carnival, is one of the best ways to improve student performance in school. The informal setting of a Family Science Carnival provides a fun, comfortable environment for family involvement. The clearly written and illustrated Family Science Challenge handouts will help parents feel more confident about exploring science with their children, both during the family event and later at home where they may want to repeat the science activities.

Teacher Name: Emma Mehew, Kristal Mangiacapra School: Houston Subj. or Gr. Lvl. Science 3rd & 4th grade

Title: **Model Science for Model Learning**

Abstract: Our students will be able to learn about systems in science through the use of models for hands-on learning. A majority of our students are English language learners and/or limited experienced. Our students will benefit from 3-dimensional manipulatives. We will include models, labeling, learning functions of the parts of systems, and other exercises overlapping into other disciplines. We believe models will motivate the students and make their learning more meaningful. We will incorporate TEKS related questions to invoke critical thinking skills that will in turn promote the students' learning.

Teacher Name: Cindy Barnhill, Jean Harmon, Tara Ramirez School: Ben Milam Subj. or Gr. Lvl. Social Studies, Writing, Technology Kindergarten

Title: **Career Investigators Take a Road Trip**

Abstract: What better way to gain first-hand experience about different professions outside the home and school than to get on a bus and visit various workplaces in the community? Students will first brainstorm and prepare interview questions to ask people on ten different career paths. Students will work in teams to interview and take pictures of a postal worker, professor, soldier, weather forecaster, etc. in his or her element. The students will later compile the information they have acquired through the interview process and add their own reflections of the experience to compose a book using the computer and pictures from the digital camera. Finally, students will share their pages with the class by reading about and discussing each career.

Teacher Name: David White School: WFHS Subj. or Gr. Lvl. 9-12

Title: **The Sounds of Music**

Abstract: To generate interest in the career field of broadcasting and the related technology and production fields, the Technology Systems lab at WFHS hopes to initiate a sound editing and production software station. All students enrolled in Tech Lab will rotate into the station and gain experience with the equipment and related software.

Teacher Name: Gina Strong School: Carrigan Career and Technical Center Subj. or Gr. Lvl. 10-12 grades

Title: **Good Morning, Carrigan!**

Abstract: All students at Carrigan are preparing for a career or post-secondary education so they share that same goal. However, they come from three different high schools. Because they spend three hour blocks a Carrigan, they often miss announcements at their home school and have no way to connect with each other at Carrigan either. A large TV in the break room could be used to replay announcements from the home schools as well as broadcast information specific to Carrigan students. It could also be used to show short videos about careers, financial aid, and post-secondary education options while students are taking their daily breaks.