

# Franklin-Simpson Educational Excellence Foundation, Inc.

## GRANT APPLICATION COVER PAGE

Application must be typed. If you experience difficulty completing, please contact our office at 270-586-8018 or email [fseducationalexcellence@gmail.com](mailto:fseducationalexcellence@gmail.com). Completed applications should be submitted via email to [fseducationalexcellence@gmail.com](mailto:fseducationalexcellence@gmail.com) in PDF form. Application deadlines are outlined below.

Applicant Name & Position: Laura Halcomb Second Grade Classroom Teacher

School/Organization Involved: Simpson Elementary School

Amount Requested: \$7,750

MAY 29 2019

Purpose of Funding: To acquire a class set of chromebooks and chromebook carts.



Targeted Grade Levels: PreK-K 1-3 4-5 6-8 9-12 Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Students/Persons Affected by Grant: 75+

Academic Area: Reading Language Arts Social Studies Math  
Science Fine arts Community Other: \_\_\_\_\_

### Brief Summary of Project (2 - 3 Sentences):

My goal is to have a class set of chromebooks and carts for storage/charging. Having 1:1 technology in the classroom will allow our students more frequent opportunities to practice critical 21st century skills and will allow me to better meet the diverse needs of our students.

Address of School/Organization: 721 Witt Road, Franklin, KY 42134

Contact Person: Laura Halcomb


Phone: (Day & Evening) 270-586-4414 Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: [laura.halcomb@simpson.kyschools.us](mailto:laura.halcomb@simpson.kyschools.us)

Grant Cycle Submitted: Feb. April Sept. Nov.

### Required Signatures

#### Simpson County Schools:

Principal/Supervisor  Date 5/25/19

Superintendent \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Community Organizations:**

**Grant Preparer** Laura Halcomb **Title** Teacher **Date** 05.24.2019

**Board Representative** \_\_\_\_\_ **Title** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_

**A. NARRATIVE**

1)

a. The mission of Simpson County Schools is “To develop all children to their fullest potential and prepare them for the next level of life”. In the context of our second grade classroom, the “next level of life” would mean that our students are prepared for third grade; but in the broader context of the phrase, our children need to be prepared for so much more - their future. We can do this by offering them opportunities to engage in meaningful learning experiences with various learning tools- and that includes technology.

b. Simpson Elementary School uses SuccessMaker Math and Literacy Program as our online intervention resource. The recommended weekly usage for each child is twenty minutes three times a week in both reading and math. Our students enjoy the adaptive learning activities and are thoroughly engaged while working in SuccessMaker. This year, my student teacher set up a Google Classroom page for our class. Our students quickly learned how to log in and access their assignments. They enjoy the different learning opportunities in Google Classroom and appreciate the immediate feedback I can provide. Currently, I share a Chromebook cart with my team of five teachers. This means that I have the cart in our classroom one day per week and the students need to complete two SuccessMaker lessons, a Google Classroom assignment and any other digital activities that are planned for the day. Having a chromebook cart in the classroom will allow our students to access instructional websites and resources available to them far more frequently. Also, I would have the opportunity to address the new Computer Science standards while using the Chromebooks for reading, math, writing, science and social studies lessons. Some of our students are fortunate to have access to technology at home, but many do not. Having a Chromebook cart in our classroom would allow all of our students the same opportunity to access technology on a daily basis. Learning how to be responsible digital citizens as second graders will help our students reach their potential and prepare them for the next level of life.

- 2) With a Chromebook cart, I would be able to have multiple groups working on an activity at their independent levels, while I worked with small groups. This would allow me to provide engaging learning tasks that students can complete independently, so that my attention is focused on my small group instruction.

I have used Google Classroom this year to assign reading tests, writing prompts, and collaborative projects. I also was able to have my struggling readers listen to the anchor text through a Google Classroom assignment. I have links to the websites Epic! and STEMScopes as part of Google Classroom. In Epic! I can assign stories at various reading levels and can create book collections related to current science or social studies topics that the children can read. This year, I had a collection of plant & animal habitat books. The children had several days to read the ebooks and take notes, they then

completed a writing assignment where they used Chromebooks to type an informative 2.6 paragraph on the desert habitat.

A couple of Google Apps that I have used are Google Slides and Google Docs. These are surprisingly easy for our students to navigate. The kids can insert a text box, drop in an image, adjust font size and color and change the background. That's a lot for seven and eight year olds!

Pear Deck is a Google add-on that I would love to use. The app allows teachers and students to create decks of flashcards - for sight words, math facts, Science vocabulary, etc, that they can use to quiz themselves or their friends. Since it's a part of Google Classroom, the children would have access to the cards anywhere!

Two websites that I would like to use more often are Readworks and NewsELA. Both of these sites offer differentiated reading passages on many topics. I can assign a story for our students at three or four different reading levels. NewsELA offers students the opportunity to highlight vocabulary that might be confusing or unknown and respond to questions about the text. We have limited time in our daily schedule for Science and Social Studies, so I utilize any opportunity I have to incorporate these standards into reading.

Zearn, and Fact Monster are math websites that provide engaging practice of math standards. I can assign practice sets related to the current standards or students can explore different math topics. Both sites allow for fact fluency practice.

SuccessMaker is the program that our school is using for online reading and math intervention. As stated earlier, the usage recommendation is twenty minutes three times per week. In SuccessMaker, students are projected to make a year of growth based on the usage guidelines. Having additional Chromebooks would allow me to set up a rotation during the day to help us meet the usage requirements and make or exceed that year of growth goal.

Working with Chromebooks will afford our students the opportunity to practice learning standards and work toward and master learning goals all while experiencing a deeper level of engagement. Children will be able to not only show "what they know", but to share their understanding of concepts with others.

- 3) I would love to begin day one - logging in to Chromebooks, choosing their avatar, locating Google Classroom and responding to a shared questionnaire, and then logging out correctly. This is ambitious, but I know our children can do this! Fortunately, our students have had numerous experiences this year, as first graders, that will help them to be more comfortable and successful with Chromebooks.

In order to use Chromebooks 1:1, I would have a bit of "up front" prep work. I would need to create a roster of students for Google Classroom, invite them to join our Classroom, print login cards and practice logging in and out correctly. I would also need to create accounts for the students on any websites that I plan to use.

With 1:1 Chromebooks, I can assign each child a chromebook for their exclusive use. They will only have to log in once using their Simpson County email and password. After that, they will need to choose their avatar and enter only their password. Most of the sites that I intend to use in the classroom can be accessed via Google Classroom or by using the student's Google log in. This "one-stop shop" for so many programs makes it easier for the students since they only need to learn one username and password.

Each quarter, I plan to have a digital project in math, reading, science or social studies that the children will complete collaboratively. We will publish at least one piece of writing, digitally. Hopefully, one piece will be published each semester.

I am looking forward to watching our students' typing skills improve as they complete projects on the Chromebooks. The opportunity for daily practice always leads to improvement.

- 4) This past year, Simpson Elementary School adopted a set of learning goals for each grade. The goals are referred to as Next Grade Readiness. Children that master the goals will be considered “ready” for the next grade. The three reading goals are measured by the online STAR Reading assessment, oral reading fluency and Fry words (sight words). All children are encouraged to work toward those goals. There are several online resources that will help students practice sight words and oral reading fluency. The reading sites that I have mentioned allow children to think critically about their reading. The math goals are measured by STAR Math assessment, MCOMP (addition and subtraction fluency) and MCAP (application of various math skills). Zearn, Fact Monster and SuccessMaker are all excellent resources that will help my students work toward these goals. STAR Reading and Math are assessed three times each year and the other goals are assessed quarterly. Success is celebrated in classrooms, at monthly Student Leadership assemblies and on bulletin boards in the hallways. Students track their progress and set new incremental goals in their Student Leadership notebooks. For many of our students, these goals are certainly attainable, but for a few of our students this is a daunting task. Additional opportunities to work at their level on adaptive websites will give them the necessary practice to get closer to these goals. Having a Chromebook cart in the classroom will give me the opportunity to assign daily practice, as opposed to once a week with a shared Chromebook cart. Chromebook activities will enhance the learning in our classroom by providing many fun and engaging lessons that will lead to the mastery of our Next Grade Readiness goals.

## **B. EVALUATION**

- 1) Academic growth will be measured using the Benchmarks that are already in place at Simpson Elementary School - STAR Reading and Math assessments, Aimsweb MCOMP and MCAP math assessments and oral reading fluency and Fry sight word fluency checks. While these benchmarks are scheduled to be monitored several times during the year, I plan to use the goal pages in the student's Leadership notebooks to help them track and measure incremental growth. I will also be able to measure growth using the new Computer Science standards. By the end of the year, our students should be able to produce a variety of digital projects, both collaboratively and independently. Having Chromebooks in the classroom will provide opportunities for me to use them in differentiated small groups as well as in a whole group setting. Differentiating instruction ensures that I am presenting new concepts at a level that is appropriate for each child. Chromebooks will make this much more efficient. Many of the websites that have been highlighted in this proposal provide differentiation that will be very beneficial to our students.

## **C. BUDGET**

- 1) I am seeking funding for thirty Dell Chromebooks and two sixteen-unit charging carts. Dell is the brand that we currently use at Simpson Elementary and the children are familiar with them. Google Apps for Education and Google Classroom are available for teachers, at no cost. Simpson County currently finances the cost of STAR, SuccessMaker, STEM Scopes and NewsELA. The quotes I am providing were sourced by Jessica Eaton for her recent FSEEF grant.
- 2) I am not seeking any other funding sources.

Item	Amount	Number Requested	Source	Total Cost
Google Chromebooks	\$225	30	Simpson County Schools IT Department	\$6,750
16 Unit Charging Cart	\$441.69	2	School Specialty	\$883.38
Shipping Estimate				\$150

#### **D. APPLICATION SUMMARY**

I believe that my project complies with the mission of Simpson County Schools - "To develop all children to their fullest potential and prepare them for the next level of life", by allowing our students to work toward their learning goals in meaningful and engaging activities using Chromebooks. Learning how to use technology appropriately will foster our students' interest in the digital world while preparing them for the next grade level and beyond.

My classroom Chromebook project also meets the mission of Franklin Simpson Educational Excellence Foundation - "to supplement existing educational opportunities through funding to educators and community organizations in order to facilitate effective learning". Effective learning will be facilitated by Chromebooks and their daily use in our classroom. Chromebooks will not replace thoughtful and effective teaching practices in my classroom but will enrich my lessons and provide equitable access to technology for all students.. Our students will have a wealth of resources available at their fingertips for communication, research, writing, reading, math and so much more. Using Chromebooks, our students will learn and practice the skills necessary to collaborate, explore, design, create, and think critically. I can't wait to see what they can do!

Thank you for your consideration.