

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. Completed applications should be submitted via email to fseducationalexcellence@gmail.com in PDF form. Application deadlines are outlined below.

Applicant Name & Position: Laura Halcomb - Classroom Teacher and Michael Barnum - Principal

School/Organization Involved: Simpson Elementary School

Amount Requested: \$13,500

Purpose of Funding: To acquire chromebooks for classrooms.



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):

Our goal is to have additional chromebooks for classroom use. Having 1:1 technology in the classroom will allow our students more frequent opportunities to practice critical 21st century skills and will allow us to better meet the diverse needs of our students.

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

Contact Person: Laura Halcomb or Michael Barnum

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Grant Cycle Submitted: Feb. April Sept. Nov.

Required Signatures

Simpson County Schools:

Principal/Supervisor  **Date** 9/12/19

Superintendent _____ **Date** _____

Community Organizations:

Grant Preparer _____ Title _____ Date _____

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 classrooms, the “next level of life” would mean that our students are prepared for the next 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 past 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 enjoyed the different learning opportunities in Google Classroom and appreciated the immediate feedback I was able to provide. Currently, each team of five teachers shares one chromebook cart and has use of the cart one day per week. Students need to complete two SuccessMaker lessons and any other digital activities that are planned during that one day. Having additional chromebooks will allow our students to access instructional websites and resources available to them far more frequently. Also, we 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 additional Chromebooks would allow our students the opportunity to access technology on a daily basis. Learning how to be responsible digital citizens will help our students reach their potential and prepare them for the next level of life.

- 2) With additional Chromebooks, we would be able to have multiple groups working on an activity at their independent levels, while teachers worked with small groups. This would allow us to provide engaging learning tasks that students can complete independently, so that our attention is focused on small group instruction.

I have used Google Classroom this past year to assign reading tests, writing prompts, and collaborative projects. I was also 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 we utilize any opportunity to incorporate these standards into reading.

Zearn, and Fact Monster are math websites that provide engaging practice of math standards. We 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) We 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 we know our children can do this!

In order to use Chromebooks 1:1, we would have a bit of "up front" prep work. We would 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, we 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 are used 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 students will have a digital project in math, reading, science or social studies that they will complete collaboratively. We will publish at least one piece of writing, digitally. Hopefully, one piece will be published each semester.

- 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 more Chromebooks 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) We are seeking funding for sixty Dell Chromebooks. 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) We are not seeking any other funding sources.

| Item | Amount | Number Requested | Source | Total Cost |
|--------|--------|------------------|----------------|------------|
| Google | \$225 | 60 | Simpson County | \$13,500 |

| | | | | |
|-------------------|--|--|--------------------------|-------|
| Chromebooks | | | Schools IT Department | |
| Shipping Estimate | | | | \$150 |

D. APPLICATION SUMMARY

This 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.

The 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.