

# **Westlake High School PTA Grant Application**

## **Applicant Name(s) and Job Title:**

- Janet Matthews, ELA Curriculum Leader
  - Westlake Middle/High School, English
  - Tel. 914-769-8311
  - E-mail address [jmatthews@mtplcsd.org](mailto:jmatthews@mtplcsd.org)
- Mary Knopp, Library Media Specialist
  - Westlake Middle/High School
  - Tel. 914-769-8311
  - E-mail address [mknopp@mtplcsd.org](mailto:mknopp@mtplcsd.org)

## **Title of Project and Amount Requested:**

**Title:** Books 'n' Bytes / **Amount Requested:** \$1,989.90

## **Purpose of Grant:**

The purpose of this literacy grant is to purchase 10 Kindle eBook readers, and a \$250 Amazon gift card for 25 eBooks. Students will be better able to analyze and interpret text as a result of actively practicing comprehension strategies on the Kindle while developing expertise with technology tools. A team of two teachers, Janet Matthews, ELA Curriculum Leader and Mary Knopp, Library Media Specialist, will

- (1) collaboratively create lesson plans to share with high school faculty which teach basic Kindle use and advanced use of digital reading strategies, and
- (2) design and implement training for high school teachers to maximize Kindle use

## **How will the project be incorporated into the curriculum and / or school structure?**

- The Library Media Specialist will order Kindles, protective covers, and a \$250 gift card to purchase eBooks from Amazon.com
- The Library Media Specialist will process and catalog the Kindles which will be housed, maintained, and circulated from the library. The library will maintain equipment loan permission forms.

- The Library Media Specialist and ELA Curriculum Leader will select a variety of eBook titles to purchase and download. Each eBook title purchased may be downloaded onto a maximum of 6 Kindles. In addition, free eBooks including many classic English Language Arts required reading titles will be downloaded from Project Gutenberg.
- The Library Media Specialist and ELA Curriculum Leader will create several Kindle lesson plans which will incorporate reading comprehension strategies and can be tailored to meet the needs of all content area teachers. Additionally, the Library Media Specialist will share the Kindle lesson plans school-wide by uploading them to the school library website.
- The Library Media Specialist and ELA Curriculum Leader will pilot the Kindle lesson plans and invite other teachers to observe.
- The Library Media Specialist and ELA Curriculum Leader will train other faculty members to use Kindles and will begin circulating the eBook readers to faculty in order to generate excitement and develop 'buy-in.'
- The Library Media Specialist and ELA Curriculum Leader will provide professional development opportunities for teachers who would like to use Kindles with their students.

**Describe the specific goals of your request and the objectives you expect to achieve:**

The goal of this literacy grant is to improve students' ability to analyze and interpret text by utilizing eBook readers to practice essential reading comprehension strategies like highlighting, margin annotations, clipping text and learning vocabulary words. These strategies are key to improving critical thinking such as inference, cause and effect, and making connections. It is difficult to teach and learn these strategies using traditional paper books that students are not able to mark up. Kindle eBook readers with built-in dictionaries and QWERTY keyboards, allow students to digitally write in the margins, highlight text, enlarge font size for improved readability, and instantly look up word definitions. In addition, Kindles have the potential to improve reading fluency with their text-to-speech capability.

This project will focus on student analysis and interpretation of literary texts by developing proficiency with the tools of technology (NCTE Definition for 21st Century Literacies.) The national public policy paper entitled A Kindle in Every Backpack: A Proposal for eTextbooks in American Schools ([http://www.dlc.org/documents/DLC\\_Freedman\\_Kindle\\_0709.pdf](http://www.dlc.org/documents/DLC_Freedman_Kindle_0709.pdf)) recognizes the importance of providing digital ereaders in schools to improve educational success and 21st century learning.

Teachers at Westlake High School routinely seek meaningful ways not only to integrate technology into their curriculum, but also to improve students' independent access to required texts, and enhance their students' reading comprehension and assignment accountability.

Other than simply reading, the Kindle's features would allow students to do the following:

- Listen to a text and follow along (pages turn automatically, they can choose male or female voice and the reading speed)
- Customize font size to improve readability
- Automatically save their place in the text
- Add margin notes as well as edit, delete or export their notes
- Highlight and bookmark key passages
- Look up unknown words instantly using the built-in dictionary

## **Who will benefit from this project?**

Potentially all students and teachers at Westlake High School can benefit from this literacy grant. Kindles are multifaceted tools that allow students to access free common license reading materials any place at anytime. With budget restraints, more and more publishers are downloading textbooks and other sources of information to this electronic platform. In addition, this device is a common electronic tool used in higher education. It provides students with the ability to simultaneously gather and sort important information and unlike a traditional text; this tool provides a multisensory approach to reading and informational gathering.

## **Budget Narrative**

With funds from the grant, we will purchase 10 Kindles and protective leather covers. The \$250 Amazon gift card will be used exclusively for the purchase of eBooks for this project. Each eBook generally costs \$9.99 and can be legally downloaded onto a maximum of six Kindles. The \$250 gift card will allow us to create an eBook classroom 'library' of a wide variety of 25 titles.

There will be no recurring or additional charges to the Westlake High School PTA as a result of this project.

## BREAKDOWN OF COSTS

Description	Cost	Expenditure
<u>Kindle, Wi-Fi, Graphite, 6" Display with New E Ink Pearl Technology</u>	10@\$139.00/ea	\$1,390.00
<u>Marware Eco-Vue Kindle Leather Folio, Black (Fits 6" Display, Latest Generation Kindle)</u>	10@\$34.99/ea	\$349.90
<u>Amazon.com Kindle Gift Card - \$250</u>	1@\$250.00/ea	\$250.00
	Total	\$1,989.90

## Westlake High School PTA Grant Application

I hereby agree to the provisions of this application and attest that the information provided on this application is, to the best of my knowledge, true and accurate.

**Applicant(s) Signature:**

**Date:**

Mary R. Knapp

6/6/11

Janet A. Matthews

6/6/11

**Building Principal's Signature:**

**Date:**

[Signature]

6/6/11