THE STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT / THE UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK / ALBANY, NY 12234

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2009-2012 Learning Technology Grant Program
Abstract
(Abstracts are posted as submitted by the LTG award winners)

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Learning Technology Grant 2009-12 Abstract

PS 43 Jonas Bronck is collaborating with St. Anthony Mansion, a non-public school located in our Community School District 7. Our proposed program, Data Collection and Analysis through Technology (DCAT) will focus on enhancing cross-disciplinary instruction in ELA, Science and Mathematics through the integration of technology and teacher professional development.

DCAT will engage students in deep and meaningful explorations into the science of gardening, health and nutrition. Teachers, students and families, who participate in our program will learn about the importance of organically and locally produced foods in the Bronx and throughout the globe. They will also learn about the importance of good nutrition. On the November 28, 2009 episode of Bill Moyers Now, special guest Michael Pollan reported about the link between the health crisis in America (e.g an epidemic in obesity, type 2 diabetes, heart disease, diet-related cancers) and food. We are taking action to help our children and our community to learn how they can address these issues in their own lives. PS 43 has been granted a plot of space in the community garden adjacent to our schoolyard and St. Anthony Mansion will engage its students in indoor gardening using special units called Earthboxes. During the winter, in preparation for the spring planting, students will learn about seasonal growing cycles, soil and earth composition, composting, the properties of water, water tables, water conservation and photosynthesis, plant-based nutrition, decide on which vegetables and herbs will yield the greatest amount of nutrition in small spaces and plant seeds in indoor planters.

Using a project-based and student centered approach, the program will provide models of effective technology integration at professional development training sessions conducted at Fordham University. Each school will identify a team of teachers made up of third, fourth and fifth grade teachers, literacy and math coaches and science and library media specialists. Participants will experience lessons and activities as if they were students in the classroom. Using new technologies like SmartBoards, USB microscopes, and data collection probes, teachers of literacy, math and science will improve their own technical skills and refine both curriculum and methodology. At their school sites, teachers will receive visits from Fordham University and other technology professional developers who will provide in-class support including lesson and unit planning, materials management and implementation. The program will also include training in Web 2.0 technologies including Google Docs and Moodle. Students in the two participating schools will share their projects using these new online collaboration tools.