

Yonkers City School District – *Mission My World*
2012-2015 Learning Technology Grants Three Year Application

Proposal Abstract

Mission My World provides a unique opportunity for students, teachers, and administrators to engage mentored discussions anchored around work with world class mentors via Skype videoconferencing. Efforts will support student reflection and ‘digital reporting’ through online web authoring tools. Mentoring and virtual learning have strong positive effects on student empowerment. A 2009 study, *U.S. Department of Education Study Finds that Good Teaching Can be Enhanced with New Technology*, indicates “effective teachers need to incorporate digital content into everyday classes” and “digitally rich educational strategies, such as blended learning experiences, are more effective than conventional face-to-face instruction.” Efforts will develop student reflection, empowerment and voice through relevant authentic experiential project based learning. Efforts support teachers, administrators, students, and families, of **grades 3 through 8** from **Cross Hill Academy**, a PLA school, **Paideia 15**, a SINI Year 1 Paideia Philosophy, and the **Ziccolella** Nonpublic School of Greenburgh-Graham. Activities include implementation of rigorous and highly engaging authentic virtual learning experiences with mentors to create related projects and products moving through escalating levels of empowerment and awareness, starting in year 1 with *Mission My World Community*, moving in year 2 to *My Voice*, with year 3 exploring *My World and Me*.

Project **objectives** include **1) high quality professional development through afterschool workshops, and coaching, provided by district staff, developers from New York Institute of Technology, and invited world class mentors developing 2) highly engaging project based learning experiences through virtual means, fostering student interest and engagement.** The **purpose** is **development of student achievement through engaging projects** developed through **mentored leadership experiences** using Skype and web based publishing tools developing ‘student reporters’ which create connections with real-world experiences and skills, and develop collective knowledge and student voice

Efforts align with New York State Learning Standards, including **Common Core**, and support development of lessons and units across the curriculum. *Mission My World* supports the **New York State Regents Reform Agenda Goals #1 and #3** through high quality sustained professional development supporting Development of Highly Effective School Leaders and Teachers, and Development of Student College and Career Readiness. *Mission My World* supports the objectives of the New York State Learning Technology Plan and Standards of the International Society for Technology in Education (*ISTE*). Students will engage in Skype and web authoring as reporters, thereby students will value evidence and use technology capably to read, write, speak and listen for information and understanding (*ELA.1*), as well as for critical analysis and evaluation (*ELA.3*). College and Career Readiness will be supported as students respond to varying demands of task, and audience, value evidence, while using technology and digital media strategically (*CCR*). Common Core Standards addressed include writing arguments to support claims with clear reasons and relevant evidence (*WS.3-8.1*), write information/explanatory texts to examine and convey complex ideas, concepts, and information (*W.3-8.2*), conduct research projects to answer a question (*W.3-8.7*); use language and conventions when writing (*L.3-8.3*); gather relevant information from multiple sources (*W.3-8.8*); present information, findings, and supporting evidence clearly, concisely, and logically (*SL.3-8.4*); enhance understanding through strategic use of media in presentations (*SL.3-8.5*).