

Proposal Abstract

PS16 is a Restructuring (advanced) comprehensive school located on the North Shore of Staten Island in the neighborhood of Tompkinsville. This status is because our students have not met AYP in ELA or Math. Eltingville Lutheran School, a parochial school is located on the South Shore in the community of Eltingville. Assessments have indicated that students in the third through sixth grade show significant deficiencies in ELS scores specifically in writing. With this grant, we intend to deepen our students' knowledge and understanding of their own community and of the community of their partner school. Our goal is to increase their reading, writing and math skills as they grow with this project. This project will focus on the Social Studies Core Curriculum as well as the Common Core Learning Standards in ELA using 21st Century technology skills and equipment. This project will serve to increase literacy skills especially in writing, develop information literacy skills and address the Social Studies Curriculum. It is anticipated that these activities will increase students' scores by one level in (grades 3-5) on NYS ELA. In order to achieve our goal, we would like to avail our students and their teachers with iPads and iMacs. These devices can be used for research but more importantly for documenting the important features of their communities. During the first year of the project, the students will be guided through the process of locating and mapping the location of their own school and their partner school, creating virtual tours of their own neighborhood and communicating with their counterparts using applications such as Skype. Information gathered during this first year process will be added to a website dedicated to this project. Following this exploration in the second year, the students will conduct video conversations with members of their own community and further explore the resources of the community. Finally, in the third year, the students will gather all of the information to create a documentary that will provide evidence of their exploration. They will work collaboratively on this project both virtually and in person. During this three-year undertaking, the students will meet each other at points of interest in both neighborhoods.

For this project to run seamlessly, professional development for teachers in the areas of technology and writing will be critical. The Technology Coach and Library Media Specialist at PS16 will lead technology professional development. The writing professional development for all teachers involved will be conducted by an outside source. The partner school team leaders will meet on a regular basis after school to create standards based units and lessons for use by teachers involved in the project. Evaluation will involve a variety of methods including: test score data analysis, classroom observations, surveys, checklists, contribution to the website (digital products). This evaluation process will be used to direct individualized instruction with accountability.