

2012-2015 Learning Technology Grant Program

Abstract

(Abstracts are submitted by the LTG award winners)

Queens WRITeRS (*Writers and Readers Incorporating Technology Resources in Schools*) is a NYSED collaborative writing project that will serve 450 students in grades 6 - 8 over the next three years. The project is collaboration between IS126Q the Albert Shanker School for Visual and Performing Arts and St. Francis of Assisi that serves the same geographic community. **Queens WRITeRS** will build a consortium of middle school readers and writers through a hands-on, interdisciplinary approach to learning using 21st century educational tools in a cloud-based collaborative environment. Grade six students will use iPads to engage in the Teaching Matters Writing Matters writing workshop model. All activities associated with the model will be implemented across schools, providing opportunities for peer to peer feedback and an authentic writing process that will strengthen reading and writing strategies, which can be replicated across these entire school communities. Teachers and students will use cloud-based apps such as Google docs, Google voice and Voki to share their work in written and audio formats engaging multiple modalities of learning to specifically support both English Language Learners (ELLs) and Special Needs students. The Teaching Matters online blogging and publishing tool TEXT eZine will also be used for sharing writing within genre studies, allowing for convenient feedback and publishing of final literary pieces across schools.

The goals of the **Queens WRITeRS** project are:

- To improve academic performance in achieving mastery of the NYS Learning and Common Core Standards in literacy
- To increase the use of instructional technology, specifically mobile devices, in collaborative projects to enhance students learning and foster 21st century skills.
- To improve teacher effectiveness by emphasizing pedagogical best practices in using mobile technologies and cloud-based applications in the classroom and library media center.

Furthermore, **Queens WRITeRS** will focus on the NYS Board of Regents Reform goal, emphasizing raising graduation rates for at risk students.

Digital Age Learning Inc. will provide professional development on all technology tools. Teaching Matter, Inc. will provide professional development and classroom support in use of the Writing Matters and TEXT eZine programs as well as formal training on the peer review process. Self-assessment are key components of the staff development program, as emphasized in the NYS Professional Development and NYS Teaching Standards and all schools in this project will apply these strategies with the goal of improving student performance.