

2012-2015 Learning Technology Grant Program
Abstract
(Abstracts are submitted by the LTG award winners)

MS219's **Bronx PLOT (Providing Learning Opportunities through Teamwork) Phase II** is a NYSED STEM project that will scaffold the activities and ideas from a previously successful LTG project to a higher level. This phase II project will promote a hands-on, interdisciplinary approach to learning focused on a Regents-based Living Environment curriculum and a partnership with the New York Botanical Gardens (NYBG). **Bronx Plot Phase II** will serve over 75 students per year in grades 6-8 at MS 219 and 60 students in grades 9 and 10 at Fordham Prep. Students from both schools will work with educators and scientists at the NYBG on organic gardening concepts and share their produce with the local community. Students and teachers will engage in hands-on research at NYBG and many students will participate in summer internship programs at NYBG.

Technology tools such as videoconferencing, digital media, iPads and iPod Touches will be used in the research and construction activities involved in the project. Students will maintain daily journals and monthly science lab experiment data, which they will share with their peers using Cloud apps such as Google Voice and Poll Everywhere. Both schools will use a project Ning and Podcasts to share their data with different experts, students and faculty involved with the project. The school library media center will also serve as a critical component for content research and collaboration in this project in both schools.

The goals of **Bronx Plot Phase II** are:

- To improve academic performance in achieving mastery of the NYS Learning and NYS P-12 Common Core Standards (CCLS) in mathematics, science and literacy.
- To increase the use of instructional technology, specifically mobile and hand held devices, in collaborative projects to enhance students learning and foster 21st century skills.
- To improve teacher effectiveness by emphasizing content knowledge and pedagogical best practices in using technology in the classroom and library media center. Furthermore, the Bronx Plot Phase II will focus of the NYS Board of Regents Reform goal for raising graduation rates for at risk students by increasing student engagement and offering higher level coursework in science leading to a pathway to college and career readiness in the sciences.

Outcomes will include improvement in academic performance in science, literacy and mathematics and proficiency in the use of mobile technologies for teachers fostering 21st century classroom environments. Digital Age Learning Inc. will provide professional development on all technology tools. Peer review and self-assessment are key components of the staff development program, as emphasized in the NYS Professional Development and Teaching Standards and both schools in this project will apply these strategies with the goal of improving student performance.