

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

MS 325, The Urban Science Academy, will partner with MS 145 a persistently lowest achieving urban school designated by NYS as in a Restructuring Advanced Comprehensive phase to launch the ***POETRY (Providing Opportunities for Expression through Technology Resources for Youth) Xpress*** project. ***POETRY Xpress*** is a literacy and performing arts initiative that will promote a hands-on, approach to learning using 21st century educational tools. Students in grades 6,7 and 8 will use iPads and mobile phone technology to engage in activities that will strengthen their writing abilities while integrating a performing arts component. ***POETRY Xpress*** will enhance literacy instruction through providing a collaboration between English language arts teachers at both schools and an artist in residency from DreamYard Project, a local arts organization. Technology tools such as videoconferencing and mobile technologies apps will be used to create opportunities for sharing with their peers within and across schools. Using cloud-based apps and mobile phone tools such as WeTxt, Google docs, and Google Voice, MS 325 and MS 145 students will partner with students from St. Phillip Neri, a local K-8 nonpublic school. A project Ning will be developed to archive video, Podcasts and Phonecasts of student performances to share across schools. The school library media center will also serve as a critical component for content research and collaboration in this project in both schools.

POETRY Xpress will serve over one hundred and seventy five students per year beginning in grade 6, at each school. The project will scaffold to grade 7 in year 2 and grade 8 in year 3, following a cohort of students for a three -year period.

The goals of ***POETRY Xpress*** 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 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, ***POETRY Xpress*** will focus on the NYS Board of Regents Reform goal for raising graduation rates for at risk students by increasing student engagement in writing leading to a pathway to college and career readiness.

Outcomes will include improvement in academic performance in literacy with a far-reaching vision of increased interest in writing at the high school level in addition to increased comfort and proficiency in use of mobile technologies for teachers fostering 21st century classroom environments. Digital Age Learning Inc., a technology integration company whose staff has over 30 years of experience in integrating technology in NYC classrooms, will provide professional development and classroom support 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 NYS Teaching Standards and both schools in this project will apply these strategies with the goal of improving student performance.