

**SCPS  
EETT2 Grant**

# Middle Schools GET REAL

## Relevant, Engaged, Authentic Learning

**Volume 1, Issue 3**

**October 2006**

## REAL Project Ideas Decided

The beginning of October found the REAL Project Team with Orientation and Training 1 completed at all three REAL middle schools. The first part of Training 1 focused on how the concepts of Understanding by Design, Essential Questions and Project-Based Learning will be used to create and implement each school's project. The second phase of each of the half-day sessions was spent brainstorming possible project ideas and community partners. After much constructive discussion and deliberation in the days following, each school has reached a final decision.

School	Project Idea	Training 3
Milwee MS	Sports/Health and Fitness	10/23/06
Sanford MS	Central Florida Zoo	10/24/06
South Seminole MS	Outdoor Classroom	10/26/06

The next phase of project planning and design, Training 2 on October 12th, was hosted by South Seminole Middle School in their media center. The REAL Project Team Leaders from each school came together for a full day of collaboration and brainstorming. During this time, prospective community partners came by to discuss their roles in the individual projects. The expected outcome for this training was for each school to fine tune the specific focus of their project idea and develop an overarching essential question. Each school's Lead Team has taken the results of the day's labor back to their respective school to share with the rest of their REAL teachers. This information will help them to identify and begin planning the implementation of their "building block" pieces to be discussed at Training 3.

The last phase of project planning and design will be Training 3. Scheduled similar to Training 1, there will be two half-day sessions at each school. This time will be spend collaborating and fine tuning each participating teacher's part of the project so that it adequately meets their student's curriculum needs. Teachers and coaches will try to identify any specific additional resources, training and/or equipment required to implement the respective project parts. Ideally, each teacher will leave with a plan in place, excited and confident that their projects will provide a REAL experience for their students.

## REAL Community Partners

An integral part of actually making this project REAL is the community partnership. During Training 2, the schools' Lead Teams had the opportunity to brainstorm with partners carefully chosen to complement each of the individual school's projects. Many thanks to those whose contribution made the meeting so productive!

- Milwee Middle School was partnered with Kelly Greeno from the Lake Mary YMCA to help them develop their Sports/Health & Fitness project.
- South Seminole Middle School's original Outdoor Classroom Project idea has expanded, inspired by Volusia Community College Pro-

fessor, Patti Smith and Andy Berardicurti from the SCPS Facilities Department.

- Sandi Linn and Stephanie Williams from the Central Florida Zoo helped the District REAL Team and Sanford Middle School fine tune the focus of their educational kiosk project.

### Special points of interest:

- REAL School Project Ideas have been chosen
- Community Partners have begun taking active roles in individual school projects.
- Building Block pieces will be fine tuned during Training 3
- Teacher Digital Cameras have been delivered.
- Four day Digital Storytelling Training Workshops are being scheduled for each of the REAL Schools

## Digital Storytelling Training Workshops

Digital Storytelling is creating quite a buzz in and around Seminole County Public Schools these days. Our grant project is fortunate to have the resident experts as integral members of our REAL District Team. Diane Lewis and Kathy Rhodus are scheduled to facilitate no less than four of the four day trainings for REAL teachers. Their enthusiasm and passion for this workshop have inspired even the most difficult audiences to achieve beyond expectation.

Those REAL teachers who have determined that this training is essential to their final piece of the school project will have the opportunity to attend the training sessions scheduled for their school.

The first two trainings have been scheduled for Sanford Middle School's participants. Partnering with the Central Florida Zoo, they will create educational kiosk videos. Thus, it is most appropriate that arrangements have been made for their sessions to be held on site in the Wayne Densch Educational

Building. Teachers will have the opportunity to explore the grounds and become familiar with the zoo and all that it has to offer.

Digital Storytelling Training Workshops for the teachers from the other two REAL middle school will be held at their respective school sites. Additional training for Vernier probes and Information Literacy have also been added to the REAL training schedule. The current training calendar through December can be found on the REAL website.

## REAL Teachers Receive Digital Cameras

All REAL teachers have received a Sony DSD-30 digital camera, memory card and extended warrantee card. These cameras will be used to document and implement each teacher's part of their school's project. The cameras are the personal property of the teacher and is theirs to keep (yes, forever and ever!). Because there are quite a few cameras that look exactly the same on each campus, it would be prudent to mark it permanently with your name. Also, teachers may want to consider purchasing a camera case to protect and prolong the life of their camera.

**WARRANTEE INFORMATION:** *Be sure to register your camera online @ [www.mackcam.com](http://www.mackcam.com)*

Warrantee type is 1058

Vendor is B & H, purchased on 9-20-06

PO # 0002165450 Seminole County Public Schools—this is required if you have to use your warrantee

## The REAL Project Teams

### The District's REAL Project Support Team includes:

Dr. Ann Kohler, Information Services, Project Manager  
 Dr. Anna-Marie Cote, Executive Director, Instructional Excellence & Equity  
 Dr. Ron Pinnell, Executive Director, Middle School Education  
 John Tracy, CIO  
 Hugh Harris, Director, Curriculum  
 Dr. Sallie Jenkins, Director, Professional Development  
 Sharon Shrader, Secondary Mathematics Curriculum Specialist  
 Dr. Donna Poniowski, Secondary Science Curriculum Specialist  
 Dr. Beverly Broughton, Professional Development  
 Diane Lewis, Instructional Technology  
 Kathy Rhodus, Professional Development  
 Claire Robinson, Information Services  
 Jeanne Farmer, Coordinator, Resource Development  
 Elayne Reiss, Manager, Performance Data  
 Melanie Miller, Middle School Mathematics Coach  
 Jenifer Rember, Middle School Science Coach

### Each School has a REAL project team that include:

School Administrator  
 Education Technology Facilitator  
 Media Specialists  
 Lead Teacher from each Grade Level  
 MS Math Coach  
 MS Science Coach

**“People rarely succeed unless they have fun in what they are doing.”**  
**- Dale Carnegie**

**The REAL Training calendar can be found@**  
**<http://www.real.scps.k12.fl.us/calendar.htm>**  
**AND The REAL Blackboard @**  
**<http://blackboard.scps.k12.fl.us/>**