



Middle Schools GET REAL Relevant, Engaged, Authentic Learning

Volume 1, Issue 3

Happy New Year!

January 2007

SCPS EETT2 Grant

Congratulations to Wanda Dykes & Christina Morris whose students are the first to complete their Digital Story Projects

Special points of interest:

- * Digital Storytelling training completed.
- * Completed on-line surveys and observations required for DOE.
- * Equipment support materials have been delivered are ready for check out.
- * Extra Incentives for Painless Action Research
- * Support training being planned
- * Coaches are available for assistance.



Digital Storytelling Training is a Hit!

Each of the REAL Middle Schools have completed their initial Digital Storytelling Training. Participating teachers left with the experience of, and knowledge of, how to integrate writing, research and technology into their curriculum in a relevant and engaging way. Most were amazed by what they and their colleagues were able to produce, and were excited and anxious to bring the project back to share with their students.

Beginning with Sanford Middle School and Rays of Hope Charter School in late October, two groups of teachers came together at the Central Florida Zoo for their four days of intensive train-

ing. Working in the perfect location, participants were able to investigate all their community partner has to offer them and their students. The zoo animals and “their people” were most accommodating. Close encounters, hands-on feedings, University of Florida interns practicing health care, species protection and global studies programs were just some of the inspiration provided during our stay.

South Seminole and Milwee Middle Schools’ trainings closely followed in November. Each was held at the respective school’s site. South Seminole’s teachers created wonderful digital stories that will serve as models to their

students whose task will be to create a variety of themed outdoor classroom environments on campus.

Committed to building a campus wide sports, health and fitness program for their students, the Milwee teacher’s digital products were diverse. Themes addressed many aspects of healthy living for now and the future.

The trainers would like to congratulate these teachers on a job well done. It is notable that, without exception, as teachers progressed through the process, their enthusiasm and confidence were evident and contagious. What a wonderful experience to share with your students!

DOE Team Defines Grant Accountability Data

An important part of the SCPS REAL grant is fulfilling the data collection for research done in cooperation with our partner universities. The first phase requires each of the eleven Florida district EETT2 teachers to participate in an on-line survey. If you have not yet completed the survey, please do so as soon as possible.

https://websurveyor.unf.edu/wsb.dtl/17/teacher_survey.htm

This instrument is NOT the same one many of you took last summer.

The next phase will be

anonymous individual classroom observations. There are *two types* of these baseline “Fall Observations” to be done at each school.

- The first type is a fifteen minute visit, recorded for ten randomly chosen teachers.
- The second type will last an hour (or one class period which ever is less) and be done for two randomly chosen teachers.

Each REAL middle school will be visited by one of the SOM (School Observation

Measure) trained District REAL Team members. All of the fifteen minute observations should be completed in approximately three hours per school. Those teachers selected for the hour observations will be notified prior to their visit.

The last phase will be a similar “Spring Observation” to show impact and growth. The perfect time for this visit will be when teachers are implementing their project piece. Please notify the District REAL Team of your project time-line to make sure everything is properly documented.

Equipment and Materials Update

By January 5, 2007 each of the SCPS REAL middle schools will have received:

- A laptop for each of the REAL teachers loaded with the appropriate software.
- A digital still camera for each teacher to document the process of their individual and school projects.
- Five of six wireless laptop labs. Each lab consists of eight laptops and a printer to be used cooperatively with students in classrooms.
- Ten digital video cameras, accesso-

ries and tripods

- Graphing Calculators

29—TI-84 for use in 8th grade classes

28—TI-73 student graphing calculators for use in 7th grade classes

28—TI-73 student graphing calculators for use in 6th grade classes

2— TI-73 Teacher Edition Cal calculators to use with the TI Presenters

2— TI Presenters

TI Tech-tools Kit with activities and support materials for the TI users. Includes 365-day trial of Smartview for the TI-84 and 24 CD site license.

- An assortment of appropriate Vernier probes, data collectors and motion detectors with Logger-Pro 3 software site license.
- A set of digital still cameras for check out.
- Two Elmo document cameras (can be used with a microscope).

The LCD Projectors as well as the sixth laptop labs have been ordered.

Training and Support

The Vernier Probe training was held December 2nd at the ESC. Those attending left with their school's equipment, each bundle ordered to address the needs of individual projects. Additional training and assistance will be made available as needed.

Now that the TI calculators have been delivered, mini-workshops are being planned. All math teachers (and science, too!) are encouraged to check them out.

If you have questions or would like a coach to come in to help you set up or

implement your lesson, don't hesitate to contact either.

Calculators:

Melanie_Howard-Miller@scps.k12.fl.us

Probes:

Jenifer_Rembert@scps.k12.fl.us

Earn Bonus Technology with Action Research "Lite"

Are there things on your classroom wish list that have gone unfulfilled? Do you need an extra student computer, digital camera, probes, calculators, or ...?

Have we got a deal for you! SCPS Project REAL is looking for a few teachers to participate in the EETT2 Action Research. Want to know more? The following is an explanation of what will be required, directly from the DOE:

*"This strategy will allow teachers to share their classroom stories with policymakers from around the state. Teachers participating in the AR component of the evaluation **will earn bonus technology** and will have support from fellow teachers, an MDE (Master Digital Educator)*

and our evaluation team. They will also receive an easy-to-use book that will help guide them through the process.

*Some teachers may be familiar with the "academic" version of AR which typically culminates with a 25-35 page paper. This is **NOT** what we're asking teachers to do. AR teachers will be asked to input different pieces of information into a database at different times between January and April (i.e. question related to student learning, strategies for answering that question and results). See the attached document for more details.*

We realize the AR component is more complex than the other evaluation strategies but this should not be too surprising given that the goal is to document student

learning (an inherently complex, multi-faceted endeavor). We've been told on several occasions that this is the piece of the evaluation policymakers are most interested in hearing about. If teachers have questions they can feel free to contact anyone on the evaluation team for more information."

A few of our Project REAL Teachers have already expressed an interest participating in this aspect of the grant. With this further clarification we can see, the Action Research for EETT2 is not as daunting as it might have seemed. If this sounds like something you are interested in, contact the SCPS REAL District Team by January 19th to save your spot.

SCPS EETT2 Grant

SCPS Middle Schools Get REAL

Milwee Middle School
Sanford Middle School
South Seminole Middle
School
Rays of Hope Charter



Come see us in Action

@ The REAL Website

<http://www.real.scps.k12.fl.us/>

AND

Blackboard for REAL Teachers @

<http://blackboard.scps.k12.fl.us/>

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 Poniatowski, 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 Rembert, Middle School Science Coach

Each School has a REAL project team that includes:

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



Sanford Middle School's REAL Teachers on track at the Central Florida Zoo