

**SCPS  
EETT2 Grant**

# Middle Schools GET REAL

## Relevant, Engaged, Authentic Learning

**Volume 1, Issue 1**

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## Seminole County Public Schools Selected to Receive EETT2 Grant

By now, most of you are aware of the EETT2 grant our district has received. Originally, there were ten one-million dollar amounts to be awarded by the Florida DOE. But, in order to include an eleventh, a bit of funding was "pinched" off each of the original ten to create the eleventh grant.

This opportunity presented itself very late in the 2005-2006 school year. Because of the late notification, preparation and planning time for the coming year has been much less than we are used to having.

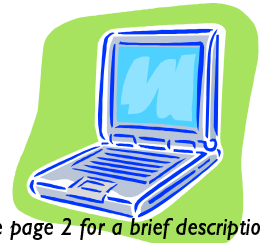
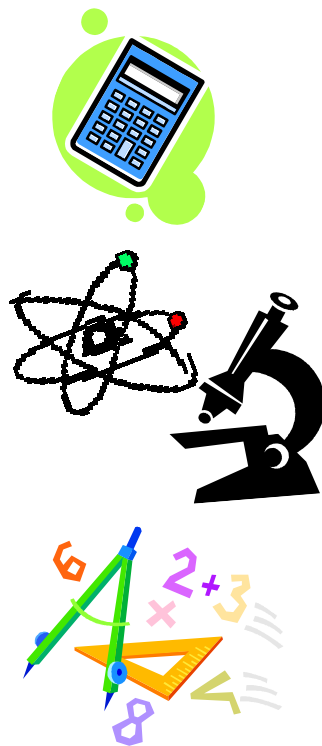
In spite of the short turn around time, Seminole County teachers have once again risen to the occasion, coming together in a united force.

Well represented at many of the DOE's Summer Florida Digital Educator's Trainings, the SCPS group made a great showing. Those who attended earlier trainings came back with valuable information that helped prepare the large Mt. Dora group of attendees for a smooth workshop experience. All came back having seen just a

glimpse of the possibilities that technology can bring into their classrooms.

The beginning of the school year is always exciting. This year, our EETT2 grant should really bring a spark of enthusiasm into our math and science classrooms.

See page 2 for a brief description of the REAL Grant.



### Special points of interest:

- The first half of our project year will focus on teacher preparedness and project planning.
- School projects will be implemented in the second semester.
- PBL and UBD trainings are CRUCIAL.
- Additional tools and trainings will be provided as needed

### What NEXT?

Now that most of you have your laptop\* and have earned the title of "Florida Digital Educator" (FDE), are you going to be left alone to meet all the expected project goals and objectives? Absolutely NOT! The first half of our project year will focus on teacher preparedness.

The District REAL Project Planning/Support Team will be meeting this week to begin to coordinate the essential training necessary

for our EETT2 teachers to begin building their school project plans. The calendar will include the trainings crucial to the project framework - PBL (Project Based Learning) and pedagogy - UBD (*Understanding by Design*) and Essential Questions. In addition, there will be trainings similar/related to those facilitated by the MDEs, TI calculators, and any other tools that may be needed for the school projects.

Project implementation will begin the second semester. Remember, this is a work in progress and is intended to be a unique growth experience for all participants. If you have concerns, please let us know. Just remember to keep yourself open to enjoy the journey!

*\*Arrangements are being made for those participants who have not been issued laptops to receive them ASAP.*

# Brief Overview of the SCPS REAL Project

The REAL project addresses the needs of middle school students and teachers through the use of laptop computers and supporting technology devices. The framework for the project is built upon Project Based Learning (PBL) strategies and the pedagogy of *Understanding by Design* (Grant Wiggins & Jay McTighe) and focuses on academic improvement in mathematics, science, and technical writing. It is built on research-based pedagogy that supports increased student performance; increased teacher use of technology in the classroom as a tool for interdisciplinary learning; and increased civic involvement of schools with their community.

The **goal of the project** is: To engage teachers and students in a REAL learning environment that is

designed to increase student achievement through the integration of laptop computers as a tool for teaching and learning in the classroom.

Project funds will be used to purchase laptop computers for teachers, mobile laptop labs for classrooms, software, material and supplies. The project will also provide two coaches, extensive teacher training, consultants, and the DOE required summer institute.

Three middle schools, Sanford, South Seminole and Milwee and one charter school, Rays of Hope have been selected as the pilot schools for the project. Each school brings distinctive characteristics to the project and both teachers and students will benefit enor-

mously from the implementation of the program.

In order to provide relevance, and authenticity, real-world partners will be invited to work with the Project Support Team to develop a menu of community issues that schools will use to determine the focus and extent of their projects. Each school will elect to work with the partners that are most closely linked to the projects that are selected.

As a result of the proposed project, teachers will be more proficient in the use of technology and their training will be immediate and ongoing; students will increase academic performance in mathematics and science and will gain skills in the use of technology.

## The REAL Project Teams

Each School will have a REAL project team that will include:

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

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

**Tell me and I forget.  
 Show me and I remember.  
 Involve me and I understand.  
 - Chinese proverb**