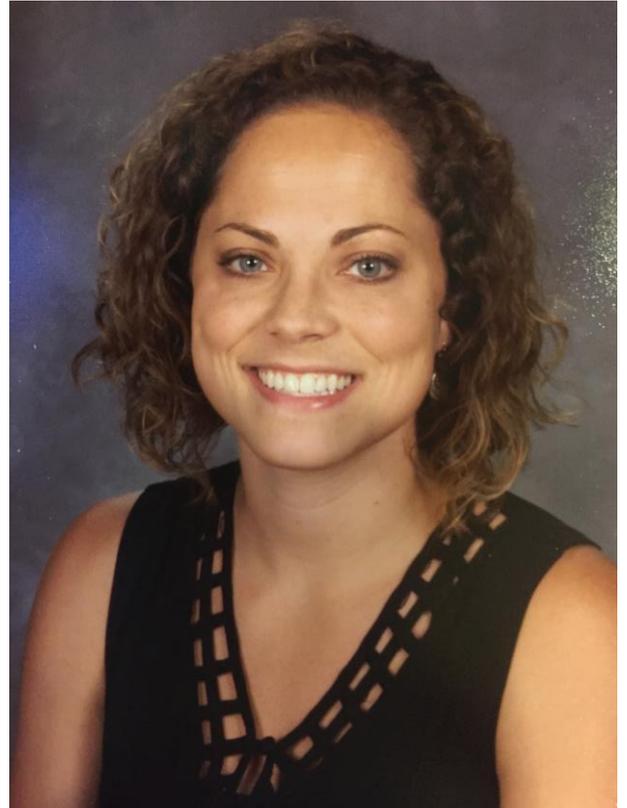## Jaime Miller
Grades 3-5
Edgewood Intermediate School
Bloomington, Indiana

How would you use a $2,000 grant to purchase technology for your classroom?
I am proposing the purchase of a commercial-grade, state-of-the-art WeatherBug weather station to be placed on site at Edgewood Intermediate School. The live weather data is fed into interactive lessons, tools and activities that will be used for enhanced mathematics, science, geography, and technology education in the school. Students and teachers will have access to the entire WeatherBug network, comprised of more than 8,000 sites across the country which will allow them to make comparisons of the data.

Why is technology important for you and your students?
A real challenge faced by the educational community is the identification and integration of application technologies that harness the power of the internet in a safe and productive way. Technology creates avenues through which teachers can afford students access to rich content and experiences otherwise unavailable to them based on geography or financial barriers. Technology, by creation, is not innovative or impactful; technology offers tools we as educators must harness to bring the world to our students.

We all relate to the weather on a daily basis. The WeatherBug program uses the universally engaging topic of weather as one of these "avenues" to interdisciplinary curriculum and to real-world experiences in multiple core content areas. An innovative aspect of the WeatherBug Schools Program is the ability to integrate live weather data into school websites. Not only can schools share real-time data with other participating schools, but through technology, students become community partners by offering their weather data as a resource.

What is special or unique about your classroom and students?
As a STEAM Coach, I serve close to 600 curious children in grades 3-5 at Edgewood Intermediate School. Our students are poised to benefit greatly from the use of technology as it provides access to opportunities for inquiry, service learning, and critical thinking in a world beyond our rural community. The inequities in access to high-speed internet and the limitations imposed by mobile device access alone create barriers for families to providing enriching experiences for children, while accelerating learning for others.

Our students are fortunate to have many STEM-related community partners including an institution of higher education right in their backyards, however access to those partners and programming remains out of reach for a large portion of our students, creating a significant disparity in our students' experiences. Technology can engage all students in both a local and global community, and can connect them to a world where their curiosity and critical thinking skills qualify each of them as powerful community members.

Photos from their classroom