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K-5

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of Science and
Technology
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How would you use a \$2,000 grant to purchase technology for your classroom?

This is the first year TC Henderson Elementary School has been considered a School of Science and Technology. All our students have some sort of device (Chromebooks 3rd-5th and Learnpads K-2nd) however the rest of our technology is outdated or not functioning properly. The Learnpads have started freezing and there are times when the volume will not adjust. Our big goal will be to update the Learnpads and add Chromebooks to 2nd grade so they can use Google Docs and have more exposure to a keyboard.

I would like to purchase updated document cameras so teachers will have working devices. Modeling student work and encouraging the students to facilitate learning will only happen when we have technology that supports our vision. Additionally, I would like to purchase digital microscopes so students can explore science and technology simultaneously. With the digital microscopes, students can capture video or photographs of their experiments and then display their findings on the SmartBoard. The new document cameras and digital microscopes will encompass all learning styles so that visual, auditory and kinesthetic learners can find success.

Why is technology important for you and your students?

In a rural area, technology is very important for our students. Our cell service was so poor at the top of our mountain we had to lean against the windows to use our phones. This posed a safety issue if our landline phones went out. We worked with our county leaders to install a booster to improve our WiFi and cell strength.

Our students perform well above the state average on standardized tests. However, we have noticed the percentage of students making academic growth has dropped over the past 2 years. We also have noticed that although students are considered proficient on standardized tests, the percentage of our students considered College and Career ready is much lower than our expectations. Technology is a motivator and a pathway to help our students grow as learners and tap into some of their hidden talents. We want our students to continue on to higher education after high school and exposing them to a variety of current technology will impact their futures.

What is special or unique about your classroom and students?

TC Henderson School of Science and Technology is a small rural school, nestled in mountains. The school has a total enrollment of 138 students Kindergarten through 5th grade. Generations of families of attended TC Henderson and the bond within the community is very strong. Parent support is strong as evident by our weekly after school science clubs where more than 50% of our students attend. Our students may live in poverty or difficult home situations but they come to TC Henderson to learn and feel valued.

Photos from their classroom

