

**AdoptAClassroom.org STEM Teacher Finalists
for PCMG
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Kindergarten...all subjects
Edgewood Elementary
Michigan City, Indiana

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

With these funds, I would further my students use of technology by purchasing tablets for my 22 learners or an additional eight Chromebook stations. Our school system is in the midst of a game-changing learning environment by providing each of our K-2 classrooms with Promethean boards and interactive technology.

We've also adopted high-level curriculum that comes with its own internet-based diagnostic software and individualized learning paths for each child. However, we don't have enough tools in place in the classroom to make the most of that curriculum--mainly, we don't have the hardware to run the program for enough students at the same time. We are limited to just four Chromebook stations. The purchase of additional Chromebooks or individual tablets will allow my students to get the targeted instruction that will help them reach their fullest potential.



Why is technology important for you and your students?

Every teacher struggles with finding enough time in the day to meet the needs of the diverse group of learners they get each year. Technology has been my "baby" from the time I started teaching 15 years ago. I love to integrate real life examples into my daily

teaching so that learning is as natural as breathing to my students. If we are learning about "Animal Babies in the Grasslands," I want to jump to a YouTube video that shows animal babies in the grasslands.

With the diverse needs, it is a struggle to find one size fits all programs that will allow each child to grow in the areas he or she needs most. Through the use of technology I am able to easily track student data that keeps me on top of differentiating my curriculum. I am also able to assign students to learning paths that meet their individual needs, and it allows me additional time to work with students who have critical needs while other students are engaged in their computer-based learning.

What is special or unique about your classroom and students?

Diverse, engaging, heart-wrenching, active, and curious; all of these words describe my classroom and students. I have a passion for watching these littlest learners embrace their learning through collaborative learning, technology and good old-fashioned hard work. My school has a free and reduced population of around 75%. These are families that are struggling to just put food on the table and heat their homes, so sometimes, learning is not the highest priority.

I use every trick I know to constantly engage my students and empower them to think they can do anything, be anything they want to be when they grow up. We have an amazing staff that supports and surrounds each student with as much help as they can provide, but sometimes it simply boils down to never being able to offer enough due to lack of funds, but certainly never lack of effort. My kids are a force to be reckoned with, and I truly believe they all have the potential to do great things no matter what their circumstances.

Photos from their classroom

