



Plano ISD and Palm Computing Education Pioneer Grant Application



Please direct any questions you may have on this application form or the process to your cluster technology coordinator or send an email to palmgrant@pisd.edu.

1. Proposal Title: Handhelds for Small Hands

2. School Name: Rose Mary Haggar Elementary

Address: 17820 Campbell Pkwy.

City: Dallas

State: TX

Zip: 75252

3. Primary campus contact name: Jennifer Ackels

Address: 17820 Campbell Pkwy.

City: Dallas

State: TX

Zip: 75252

Phone: 972-519-8832x52912

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Email: jackels@pisd.edu

Webpage:

4. Grades targeted:

Primary

Intermediate

High School

5. School demographics:

We have approximately 642 students.

We have the following approximate demographic breakdown:

African American—6%

Hispanic—6.3%

White—75%

Asian/Pac. Islander—11.4%

Native American--.8%

6. Additional grant teachers (if any):

Name(s): Stephanie Webb---1st grade team leader

7. Campus Principal:

Name: Vicki Halliday

8. Number of

Students

Per semester: **22**

Involved in

Through June 2002: **22**

Your Project:

9. Number of Palm devices requested:

25 units

*Special hardware requested (if any):
Portable keyboards (and cases for Palm, if possible)

*Special software requested (if any):
Avant Go, Jack and Jill, Mental Math and/or other similar applications
I will also look for other possible free software throughout the year.

* be sure to clarify and explain your need for any additional hardware or software in your project description (#14)

10. Target subject areas addressed:
(check all that apply)

Math
 Language Arts
 Social Studies
 Science
 Other
Description of Other:
The children will also use these as a personal organizer and time management system.

11. Focus areas:
(Check all that apply)

Curriculum
 School to Home Communication
 Assessment
 Other
Description of Other:

12. Research Partner(s)*:

Instructional Technology—Candy Atwood

* who is going to assist in the evaluation of your project

13. Proposed start date for your project:

08/15/2001
(use MM/DD/YY format)

14. Project Description:

Putting Palms in the hands of first graders will allow for an exciting learning experience for all involved. The children will use the Palms throughout the school day in a variety of curriculum areas such as reading and language arts, math, social studies, science, and as a personal organizer. The Palm will also be an integral tool in school/home communication.

I have requested that each child have a portable keyboard and case for his individual Palm. The keyboards will allow every child to work on the activity together and truly reap the benefits of a 'hands-on activity'. I will use the VID to guide the class through the variety of lessons while the students are participating at their own desk. Every child will be simultaneously involved in the learning experience. Also, the keyboard is necessary because the majority of first graders do not have the fine motor skills to use the stylus and Palm graffiti in a timely manner. The VID and portable keyboards are vital to insure the success of this program. I think that each child should also have a case for the Palm to protect it in those trips back and forth to school each day. I plan to integrate the Palm into all aspects of a first grader's life—not just one class a day.

Various software programs have been requested, as they are important tools in several curriculum areas. "Avant Go" will allow students to download information from the Internet on a regular basis. For example, the students will keep track of the weather during our Cycles O.I. The second application is "Mental Math". A similar program is on our computers in the classroom, but now the entire class will be engaged in improving their math skills. The "Jack and Jill" application will be used in language arts. The children study a variety of nursery rhymes in the first half of the year, and this program allows the children to read the rhymes on their own Palm. The simple illustrations and selection of nursery rhymes will make a wonderful foundation for a multitude of activities. They will also use this program with partners to find the rhyming words and then make additional word families. Other language arts activities may include using story starters to complete a group or class story. The Palm will allow the students to beam an "add-on story" to classmates. The software provides a well-rounded and beneficial learning experience.

In addition to the academic needs, the Palm will provide organizational benefits for the students' everyday life. At school, we will input important dates and information that the parents and children can supplement with their own family events, thus providing a solid and informative school/home connection. By organizing their information, I feel that the children will fully understand the life skill of time-management.

"Handhelds for Small Hands" is a wonderful opportunity for our children to be completely engulfed in the technology of tomorrow. All of the students will participate together in the learning experience both in and out of school. My students are eagerly awaiting the Palm for their little palms.

15. Evaluation Description

Project Goals

1. To test computer handhelds as a tool for learning throughout the curriculum
2. To test the ability of a first grader to be responsible and take care of a Palm throughout the school year

Goal 1: Test computer handhelds as a tool for learning throughout the curriculum

Evaluation Question 1

Do students master the use of the Palm in the various curriculum areas?

Indicator

Students can easily use the Palm in variety of subject areas

Data Collection Method

Teacher monitoring and observation

Students willingness to utilize the Palm

Evaluation Question 2

Do students enjoy the curriculum activities?

Indicator

Students are motivated and engaged in learning experience

Data Collection Method

Teacher observation

Student feedback (class discussions, survey, etc.)

Less off task-behavior

Improved classroom management

Goal 2: Test the ability of a first grader to be responsible and take care of a Palm throughout the school year

Evaluation Question 1

Are Palms computers and keyboards easy for first graders to use?

Indicator

Students find the keyboards and handhelds easy to use

Data Collection Method

Teacher monitoring and observation

Parent feedback by means of a survey

Student feedback (survey, class discussions, etc.)

Evaluation Question 2

Can students be responsible for the Palm throughout the year?

Indicator

Students take care of Palm throughout the year without losing or damaging it

Data Collection Method

Year to year inventory of Palms

Parent feedback by means of a survey

Timeline for evaluation

*I will be evaluating throughout the year. The need for a continual authentic assessment is vital in this project so that necessary changes and adaptations may be made immediately. Because my proposal uses the Palm throughout the school day for the entire year, I cannot wait until the end of the project to evaluate the strengths and areas of growth in the project. I will assess and make changes as needed constantly. In addition to the continual observations, I will also conduct surveys of the class and the parents at the end of the year to gather more feedback.

Improving the project

*I will look at the strengths and weaknesses of the learning experience and make adjustments accordingly. I anticipate improving my program throughout the year.