

Gillespie Technology Magnet Cluster School

Grades 3-5
SY 2011-2012

Gillespie is a neighborhood school located on the south side of Chicago that serves grades PreK to 8th. Gillespie's current enrollment is 641 students, 97.2% of which are low income families.

This grant was written by a team of teachers led by Rhonda Butler and Veronica Austin to be used in the third through fifth grade classrooms with the intention to enhance the curriculum and deepen student learning through the integration of external community resources. Gillespie received three carts to be used by each classroom. Each class had an average of 30 students.

The grant was originally written to expose Gillespie children to a broader view of Chicago through the use of technology, thus the title of the grant; "Chicago At Your Fingertips". Students were to be able to affordably broaden their view of Chicago using different avenues the iPads had to offer.

Not only were we able to implement the use of the iPads with our classroom instruction on Chicago, but we also were able to incorporate the iPads into our daily classroom instruction.

Below you will find a list of our accomplishments:

- Class wide use of Sundry Notes, Puppet Pals, Keynote, Pages, iMovie, Socrative, Science 360, Garage Band, Paperport Notes, and Edmodo

- Digital extended response

- Combining creativity and research to differentiate and challenge students daily

- Decrease in student referrals, increase in student engagement and accountability

- Attended Tech 2012 in order to showcase Edmodo

Student growth was also measured through Scantron:

- 3rd grade Total EOY Reading Gains: 50%, 3rd grade Total EOY Math Gains: 68%

- 4th grade Total EOY Reading Gains: 52%, 4th grade Total EOY Math Gains: 52%

- 5th grade Total EOY Reading Gains: 72%, 5th grade Total EOY Math Gains: 69%