

2012-2015 Learning Technology Grant Program

Abstract

(Abstracts are submitted by the LTG award winners)

The **VALUE** (*Visual Arts and Literacy United for Excellence*) Project is collaboration between MS 45 and DreamYard Project, a local arts organization that connects the arts with the NYS P-12 Core Curriculum. **VALUE** is a literacy and visual arts initiative that will promote a hands-on approach to learning using 21st century educational tools with the grade 6 - 8 literacy curriculum. Students in grades 6 - 8 will use iPads and mobile phone technology to engage in activities that will strengthen their writing abilities while integrating visual arts through digital media including photography and original video. The **VALUE** project will enhance literacy instruction through collaboration between English language arts teachers and an artist in residency from DreamYard. The teacher and teaching artists will create a team-teaching writing workshop model that will incorporate photography and video with the writing process. Using apps such as iPhoto, iMovie and Garage band, students will partner with students from Fordham Prep, a local private high school, to create theme-based literacy projects. Technology tools such as iPads and mobile technology apps such as Google docs will be used to create opportunities for sharing with their peers within and across schools. A project Ning will be developed to archive photos, video and Podcasts of student work to share across schools. The school library media center will also serve as a critical component for content research and collaboration in this project in both schools.

The **VALUE** project will serve over one hundred and fifty students per year in grades 6 -8 and MS 45 and in grades 9 and 10 at Fordham Prep.

The goals of **VALUE** are:

- To improve academic performance in achieving mastery of the NYS Learning and CCLS in literacy
- To increase the use of instructional technology, specifically mobile and hand held devices, in collaborative projects to enhance students learning and foster 21st century skills.
- To improve teacher effectiveness by emphasizing content knowledge and pedagogical best practices in using technology in the classroom and library media center. Furthermore, Media Literacy will focus on the NYS Board of Regents Reform goal for raising graduation rates for at risk students by increasing student engagement in writing leading to a pathway to college and career readiness.

Outcomes will include improvement in academic performance. Digital Age Learning Inc. will provide professional development on all technology tools. Peer review and self-assessment are key components of the staff development program as emphasized in the NYS Professional Development and NYS Teaching Standards and both schools in this project will apply these strategies with the goal of improving student performance.