

2012-2015 Learning Technology Grant Program

Abstract

(Abstracts are submitted by the LTG award winners)

Puppetry in Practice (PIP) will institutionalize Puppet Animation Laboratory (PAL) at PS46, a project that uses animation to motivate English Language Learners (ELLs) to meet ESL, ELA, Social Studies and technology standards un alignment with the New York State P-12 Common Core Learning Standards (CCLS). The project will target ELLs, who have demonstrated significant achievement gaps in ELA when compared to English proficient students. The project targets the teachers and students of 4 classes at PS46 and a double class in the Lady of Refuge School each year of the grant, providing a team of residency artists to conduct workshops for ELLs moving sequentially from grades 3 -5 . The Media Center will become the hub of the program and the source of continuing PD support for teachers. Artist trainers will work with targeted classes in both schools for 14 weeks with an additional 6 weeks provided after school, and 7 weeks of workshops for classes of previously participating teachers. Teachers from at least 6 other non-public schools in the area will be invited to participate in a series of 65 workshops that demonstrate how animation can align with the standards and improve performance by ELLs. The librarian will work with individual students on special animation projects and will be the resident expert in animation when PIP artists are not in residence.

Project goals are:

- Goal 1: Through improved ELA skills, ELLs in grades 3-5 will show improved achievement in literacy and social studies performance, reducing the gap between ELLs and non-ELLs.
- Goal 2: With the Medial Center Library serving as the PD hub, teachers of participating classes will build capacity to utilize technology to meet ELA, ESL, SS and technology standards.
- Goals 3: Through collaboration between librarian, coaches, evaluator and testing coordinator, new assessment instrument(s) will be developed to incrementally measure progress of students in meeting CCLS-based indicators via the PAL project.

As suggested in EngageNY, to conform with the Regents Reform Agenda, PAL is based on long term PD modeling of pedagogical skills, a focus on content knowledge, academic language and performance-based evaluation. The project is aligned to the CCLS and has already been incorporated into the school's curriculum map. A set of online activities will be created for the project, including e-Flash cards for the artists and teachers to use for specific lesson reinforcement. Support for these activities will be provided via PD workshops as well as videoconferencing Webinars.