

### ***Abstract***

I am seeking a grant to help primary grade children at Cook Hill School improve attention to task, increase understanding of Common Core instruction, practice their reading fluency, and publically share aloud written work. Funding in the amount of \$1,200 is requested for the purchasing of a portable Front Row To Go Speaker system with a receiver/speaker column, teacher-worn transmitter, and hand-held microphone. The use of the system will benefit the entire school community and be used for multiple purposes. Teachers can utilize the Front Row To Go Speaker system as a means to help deliver classroom instruction and promote Common Core skills. The speaker system will also be utilized by the Cook Hill school community during classroom literacy celebrations, fluency intervention activities, and school-wide assemblies.

### ***Statement of Need and Rationale***

Research has shown that hearing properly is essential for the development of spoken communication and literacy skills. Children can spend up to 70% of the school day listening. Cook Hill School is a community of young learners who range in age from 4 years old to 8 years old. Children in this age range have very short attention spans, get distracted easily, and can have difficulty staying on-task. There are also many physiological barriers, such as lack of language proficiency and attention disorders, which can impede listening as well. The use of a speaker system benefits all students and enables them to decrease their listening effort, therefore helping to reduce listening fatigue. Speaker systems can also help to block out background noise so that instruction can be heard more clearly and easily and students can remain engaged throughout the entirety of the lesson. During classroom celebrations and school-wide assemblies, the speaker system will also enable parents and community members to hear their child's voice without straining.

### ***Award Purposes and Objectives***

The Front Row to Go Speaker System provided through the grant would enable primary grade students (K-2) to hear literacy and math Common Core instruction more clearly on a daily basis. Through the use of the teacher-worn transmitter, all students will be able to listen to classroom instruction effortlessly, even if the teacher's back is turned, moves about the classroom, or if there is background noise. At the primary level, there are many students with both diagnosed and undiagnosed attention disorders. The use of the speaker system will directly benefit these learners and allow them to focus their attention on the person who is speaking and minimize the opportunity for distractions to occur. I will model the use of the Front Row To Go Speaker System in my kindergarten classroom. I will keep notes of how I integrated the use of the system in my daily lessons in order to promote Common Core skills. I will also keep data on how the use of a speaker system can promote on-task behavior and help to keep students engaged.

In addition to using the system as a means of articulating instruction and integrating Common Core skills, another purpose of the speaker system is to use it to help celebrate student accomplishments in mastering Common Core state standards. Cook Hill is community of young learners and the classroom teachers at our school commonly have literacy celebrations for parents and family members to publicly display student work in

reading and writing. The Front Row To Go Speaker System will benefit the entire school community and will allow this sharing to be more audible. Teachers will be able to borrow the system to use as needed with their own students. The speaker column, charger, teacher-worn transmitter and hand-held microphone are stored in a large bag and are very easy to transport from one classroom to another. No installation is necessary and set-up is minimal. With the use of the hand-held microphone included in the sound system, students can share aloud into the microphone, thus making it easy for parents and guests to hear. Furthermore, teachers can also utilize the system during grade level intervention activities such as Reader's Theater, or as a means for children to orally practice their fluency. Currently, our school does not have any speaker systems of this type. Our school would truly benefit from obtaining a speaker system such as the one described. There are so many instances this school year when it would have come in handy!

### ***Responsibility***

The following steps will be taken by the project director, Jessica Harris.

- Purchase Front Row To Go Speaker Systems (August 2013)
- Set up the Front Row To Go Speaker System in my kindergarten classroom (September 2013)
- Use the speaker system in the classroom daily as a means to deliver Common Core instruction and integrate it into lessons, keeping notes on how the system was integrated (September 2013- June 2014)
- Utilize the speaker system during class literacy celebrations and intervention activities for parents and students to more clearly hear children's oral expression (September 2013 – June 2014)
- Share with staff members ways in which the Front Row To Go speaker system was integrated into Common Core lessons, intervention activities, and classroom celebrations (May/June 2014)

### ***Source of Funding***

Currently, each classroom teacher receives an allocation of \$300 and the school budget is \$18,178. There is no money budgeted for this program.

### ***Personnel***

I, Jessica Harris, a Kindergarten teacher at Cook Hill School, will be responsible for ordering the Front Row To Go Speaker Systems. The system will be set-up in my classroom, which I can do myself. I will be responsible for letting teachers use the system for a day or small periods of time to utilize for class celebrations, Common Core lessons, or for students to practice their oral reading fluency during intervention. I will aid faculty members in how to use the sound system and help with set-up as needed.

### ***Plan for Evaluation and Follow Up***

Cook Hill School has a school-wide behavior program called, "Go For the Green". Each student has four colored pieces of paper in a class pocket chart. The goal of each day is for students to stay on green and not change their color. Staying on green means that a

student did their personal best to follow both class and school rules. Every six weeks, children are awarded a “Go For the Green” certificate for having less than four color changes. As the year progresses I can monitor the decrease in student off-task behavior, especially students who demonstrate attention concerns, by keeping track of the number of students in my class who earn a “Go For the Green” certificate. I can compare this data to other classrooms where the system is not used on a daily basis. Hopefully the data would show that the Front Row to Go system will enhance the focus for students and engagement for all will increase, thus decreasing off-task behavior as students often demonstrate behavior issues when they are not engaged.

At a spring grade level meeting/faculty meeting, I will share ways in which I integrated the Front Row to Go speaker system into lessons promoting Common Core standards. I will also share the data regarding the on-task behavior of my kindergarten students with the implementation of the system. Other teachers who used the system during the year will share ways they incorporated it into their classroom celebrations, Common Core lessons, or intervention activities.

If awarded this grant, it will be communicated to parents in a weekly newsletter that I write to the parents of my students. I will share ways in which the use of the sound system was incorporated into lesson activities. The grant will also be communicated in our school’s monthly newsletter, “The Cook Hill Crier”. News of the grant will also be shared with Cook Hill Staff members at a faculty meeting in the fall. At this time, I will explain uses of the sound system, how to set it up, and its possible uses.