

Technology: iPod Touch Proposal

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25 October 2010

Objective

To acquire technology, specifically an iPod Touch (<http://store.apple.com/us-k12>), for my elementary classroom.

Goals

To provide opportunities for authentic activities for my students.

To provide a tool to assist in increasing students' reading fluency skills.

To provide technology for integration across the curriculum.

ISTE Standards

Students: Grades 3-5

6. Conduct science experiments using digital instruments and measurement devices.

7. Conceptualize, guide, and manage individual or group learning projects using digital planning tools with teacher support.

10. Apply previous knowledge of digital technology operations to analyze and solve current hardware and software problems.

Solution

My proposal for the iPod Touch for my classroom cover three areas. I want to use the iPod Touch to provide opportunities for authentic activities, to assist in increasing reading fluency skills, and to integrate technology across the curriculum.

The iPod Touch as a tool for authentic activities.

The iPod Touch can be a wonderful tool for authentic activities. An authentic activity is one that provides tasks that are relevant to the real world. They are ill defined, leaving students room for taking the activity to different places, and they give lots of opportunity for collaboration. An iPod Touch fits right into this. Students could form a cooperative group in science to research the weather in various locations. Students would be able to access the web anywhere in the school, since the iPod Touch can connect to the school

WiFi technologies. Students would also be able to communicate with each other by using the “Notes” function that comes loaded on the iPod Touch.

The iPod Touch as a tool for increasing reading fluency skills.

One of our school improvement goals this year is to increase students’ reading fluency skills. The iPod Touch is the perfect tool for this job. There are two main ways it can be used to help students. First, students can use it to create podcasts. Studies show that repeated readings of a passage of text are beneficial in improving fluency rate. If students practice a passage, they will be much more excited to record it onto an iPod Touch for a podcast, rather than just reading it for the class. Another benefit of having an iPod Touch in the classroom would be allowing students a mobile tool for reading. There are several mobile applications available that allow you to download an eBook to your iPod. This has the benefit of allowing students to read anywhere; the playground, the computer lab, or in the hallway. It also opens up a huge variety of book choices that may not be available in my classroom library, or even the school library. The more a student reads, the more fluent they will become.

The iPod Touch as a tool for integrating technology across curriculum.

With the immense number of mobile applications offered for download from iTunes, the iPod will finally bring technology to all areas of the curriculum. I will provide three examples of using an iPod Touch in three different curricular areas. In writing, we focus on the 6 Traits. The first trait, and sometimes hardest for younger children, is Ideas & Content. I can’t think of a better tool than an iPod Touch to come up with a list of writing ideas for a student. An iPod Touch could also be beneficial during the writing process itself; using a Dictionary or Thesaurus app, or even publishing the finished project to a blog. An iPod Touch could also be extremely helpful in math. If students need a calculator, they have one. If they are having trouble with their basic facts, a Flashcard app could be downloaded and used. Students could also use an iPod Touch for creating word problems to show an understanding of skills and concepts. Finally, an iPod Touch could be used in science. All of our science curriculum is hands-on, and full of experiments and

making observations. It would be so helpful if a science group had an iPod they could use to record notes (whether written or verbally), and compare data with other groups.

Cost of the Proposal

Please see the second document, titled "Purchase Order," for the cost of this proposal. I am requesting 2 iPod Touches, 2 power adaptors, and 1 pair of headphones with a built-in microphone, for a total cost of \$415.95.

In Closing

Thank you for considering my proposal for the iPod Touch in the classroom. This is a tool that several students may already be familiar with, and those that are not would catch on quickly. It is user-friendly, and so beneficial to an elementary classroom. Students could use it to increase their fluency skills, and use it to bring technology to all aspects of the curriculum. It will also provide the chance to bring authentic activities into the classroom.