

WHITEBOARDS for Second Graders

"Large and small group participation using individual whiteboards increases on-task behavior of second graders!"

The FriendsOffice W.R.I.T.E. (We Reward Innovative Teaching Endeavors) Program is a concept designed to reward passionate, qualified and talented teachers within our schools. I think this describes me perfectly!

I am a highly motivated teacher of rambunctious 7 year-olds. I truly care about each child and I strive to make my teaching interesting and fun as much as possible. Unfortunately, I teach second grade in a poverty-stricken town. Many students come to school without supplies. We are blessed to have local charities donate supplies, but they are always the basic supplies, such as crayons and pencils.

I try to incorporate technology into our classroom as much as possible to keep students motivated, but sometimes the "old school" techniques turn out to be just as successful, if not more successful. On the flip side of having technology in the classroom, lots of students have become bored with technology, so I am constantly trying to find diverse ways to reach these kids.

I am always searching for opportunities to get supplies for my classroom. Any tools I can acquire to better reach my students is worth my time. Unfortunately, I am not financially able to purchase the supplies I truly want to use with these kids. The cost of purchasing individual white boards and any extra supplies exceeds my budget this year. I inherited a set of whiteboards from a retired teacher

in my first year. However, seventeen years later, they are now completely useless and I no longer have enough for each child to use, so they share.

If I receive this grant and am able to have enough white boards for each student, I could formatively assess students on the spot and this is what drives my daily instruction. For example, we are currently working on two-digit addition with regrouping. I usually write a problem on the front board and have students work out the problem at their desk on paper. If they had their own whiteboard, this would streamline the process and I could have the students hold up the whiteboards for confirmation. It's easier for students to fix their mistakes on a whiteboard as well. This allows students to truly focus on the problem in front of them. Always using paper/pencil for activities gets boring as well. The whiteboards would greatly increase the students' on-task behavior and motivate them to work. They LOVE the chance to write on the large whiteboard in the classroom, so I know how much they would enjoy using their own whiteboard for learning. If there is ever any down-time in the classroom, I could simply say, "Take out your whiteboards and let's take a practice spelling test." It prevents us from wasting even three minutes of down-time!

I also plan to use the whiteboards daily for practicing spelling words, writing sentences, working out math problems in small and large group settings. I can easily see who is on-track on who needs extra help without them having to ask for help in front of their peers, which sometimes stops students from asking questions. In reading groups, I can use the whiteboards for word work and teaching different reading strategies.

I am also asking for a zipper pouch for each student to hold their white board marker and the "sock" they use as their eraser.

This will save precious minutes when students are searching for their "tools".

I truly appreciate companies like yours that support educators and offer grants to teachers like me! Thank you for your consideration of my application. I look forward to hearing from you.

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