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Proposal ISD

<u>Using Wikis to Enhance Teaching</u>

<u>**Title of Proposal:**</u> Using Wikis to Enhance Teaching

<u>**Date:**</u> 5/7/09

<u>**Proposal Description:**</u> This proposal is for a two-day professional development day workshop. During these two days, participants will learn about wikis and the benefits of using them to enhance teaching. At the end of the workshop, participants will have created a wiki to use in the classroom.

<u>**Target Audience:**</u> This workshop is designed for fourth and fifth grade teachers at the John F. Kennedy School. There are 8 teachers total, with varied teaching experience. The teachers also have varied understanding and use of technology as it relates to their teaching.

<u>Learning Activity</u>

In this workshop, teachers will:

- develop an understanding of wikis
- determine a topic for a wiki to be used in the classroom
- create a wiki, using text and images

** <u>What is a wiki?</u>

A wiki is a collection of web pages designed so that anyone can modify the content. Teachers can use a wiki to share information, and to have students share with each other.

<u>Demonstrated Need</u>

Technology is changing the way we teach and communicate with students and their families, as well as with our colleagues. There are many, many new technologies available to teachers. Wikis are just one way to share information with students, their parents and colleagues. Wikispaces.com has given away over 150.000 wikispaces to K-12 educators *at no cost.*

The teachers for this proposed workshop will participate in a survey, as well as a personal interview. The result of these two information-gathering tools will allow this workshop to be designed to meet the comfort levels of this group. My discussions with the fourth and fifth grade teachers have lead me to the conclusion that their desire to learn about

wikis is genuine, and the comfort level within this group to learn with and from one another is noticeable.

Objectives

At the end of this workshop, the teachers will meet the following objective(*terminal objective*):

> *With guidance from the instructor, participants will use wikispaces.com to create and design a wiki which can be used in their classrooms.*

In order to reach this final objective, the participants will participate in two full days of professional development. The following objectives will be addressed during the two days. (*enabling objectives*)

1. *Given a list of ideas, workshop participants will brainstorm possible uses of wikis for their classrooms, listing no fewer than 5 possible uses.*
2. *Given the steps, workshop participants will create and name a wiki for use in their classrooms, using wikispaces.com.*

3. *After viewing a tutorial, workshop participants will enter written data in their wiki, choosing at least 2 different fonts and 2 different colors.*
4. *After viewing a tutorial, workshop participants will select pictures and insert a minimum of 5 in their wikis.*

Follow up and Implementation

At the conclusion of the two days, the teachers will have created a wikispace that is relevant to topics taught in the fourth and fifth grade classrooms, or which has a clear goal of communicating to students, colleagues and parents. This instructor will be available to the participants, to answer questions or troubleshoot. An optional after school meeting will be scheduled 1-2 months after the workshop is complete, to continue the learning and sharing of wikis.