

Ohio's Race to the Top Innovative Programs Grant Application

Application Period- March 11-April 8, 2011

Please ensure that ALL questions are answered completely in each of the four sections as incomplete applications will not be returned for modifications or completion.

Section A

1. General School Information

a) Name of Applicant (LEA):			
of italic of replacem (227).	b) Name of School(s):		
Vana Mark City Cala a ala	Van Wert High School		
Van Wert City Schools	Van Wert Middle School		
	Life Links Community School		
c) Superintendent of Schools:	d) LEA RttT Contact:		
(or equivalent)			
	Name: Bob Spath		
Name: Ken Amstutz			
	Address:		
Address:	10708 St. Rt. 118 South		
205 W. Crawford Street	Van Wert, OH 45891		
Van Wert, OH 45891			
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	Email: b_spath@vwcs.net		
Email: k_amstutz@vwcs.net			
e) School Vision:	f) School Mission:		
Van Wert City Schools will be a leader in	The mission of Van Wert City Schools, in		
academic excellence. All students will be	partnership with families, and the community		
motivated to pursue a quality education in a	is to ensure a quality educational experience		
positive learning atmosphere. This	for all students by providing a positive,		
organization is dedicated to continuous	innovative and challenging learning		
improvement through school, home, and	environment. The ultimate goal for our		
community collaboration.	students is that they will grow to become		
	responsible, productive lifelong learners living		
	in a global society.		
a) Drive any Coale of Cobools	b) Togoboy/Student Paties		
g) Primary Goals of School:	n) reacher/student katio:		
	Middle Calagallana 20 instructional to state on a 111		
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	· ·		
	11.45/1		
indicator scores will increase by 6% each year or			
exceed a 90% passage rate.	High School has 42 instructional teachers and that		
	have 571 students and so that would equate to		
GOAL 2: By 2011-12 Van Wert City Schools will	·		
increase overall attendance from 95.9% to 97% as			
measured by the district report card and decrease			
the number of students identified as habitually			
truant (from 13.8 % to 8% as measured by EMIS)			
Email: k_amstutz@vwcs.net e) School Vision: Van Wert City Schools will be a leader in academic excellence. All students will be motivated to pursue a quality education in a positive learning atmosphere. This organization is dedicated to continuous improvement through school, home, and community collaboration. g) Primary Goals of School: GOAL 1: All students in Van Wert City Schools will increase their math performance so that by the end of the 2011 – 12 school year, OAT/OGT indicator scores will increase by 6% each year or exceed a 90% passage rate. GOAL 2: By 2011-12 Van Wert City Schools will increase overall attendance from 95.9% to 97% as measured by the district report card and decrease the number of students identified as habitually	f) School Mission: The mission of Van Wert City Schools, in partnership with families, and the communities to ensure a quality educational experience for all students by providing a positive, innovative and challenging learning environment. The ultimate goal for our students is that they will grow to become responsible, productive lifelong learners living in a global society. h) Teacher/Student Ratio: Middle School has 38 instructional teachers and the have 435 students and so that would equate to 11.45/1 High School has 42 instructional teachers and that		

<u>PLEASE NOTE: In you enter into a collaboration with another LEA, please mark with an * who the FISCAL AGENT will be if selected for one of the competitive grants.</u>

Names and titles of individuals who participated in the March 10th Innovation Symposium:

- Ken Amstutz, Superintendent
- Bill Clifton, HS Principal & DLT Member
- Darla Dunlap, MS Asst Principal & Internal Facilitator
- Bob Spath, PLTW Teacher & RttT Transition Team Member

2. SCHOOL PROFILE

STUDENT INFORMATION

Grades served: Preschool – 12th grade

Enrollment (total number of students served in school applying for Innovative Program):

Grade Level	Enrollment
Pre K-5	1037
6	140
7	141
8	168
9	180
10	153
11	182
12	160

Ethnicity and gender data (% of enrollment):

Black: 1.6% White: 91.4%

Asian/Pacific Islander: .6% American Indian/Alaska Male: 50.25%

 Native: .1%

 Hispanic: 2.7%
 Multi-Racial: 3.6%
 Female: 49.74%

Percent of students eligible for free/reduced lunch: 41%

Percent of students identified as special education: 18%

Names of current competitive grants LEA has been awarded (2010-2011):

- RttT
- SPDIG grant Cohort 2
- Martha Holden Jennings
- Best Buy
- FORD PAS with OSU
- PLTW for Biomedical
- SREB
- SREB Extra Help (2) 1 at each HS/ MS
- SST R1 Universal Design for Learning
- Paulding Putman Co Round Up Program
- SST R1 Literacy grant for TeachScape / Marzano

Please attach 2009-2010 school Report Card:

Section B

1.	Please check circle(s) next to the specific Innovative Prograr	n(s) for which you are				
	applying. Prioritize your preference order to the right of the p	orogram, with "1" being				
	your first priority. A separate application must be submitted for each Innovative					
	<u>Program.</u>					
	Asia Society (International Studies Schools Network)					
	AVID*					
	Early College High School					
	New Tech Network					
	CTTAA*					
	STEM*					

*Priority may be given to the lowest-achieving schools

Section C

<u>Questions Addressing Innovation Selected-</u> Please answer these questions in the text boxes provided. Provide as many details as possible so that the reviewers can gain a good picture of your school.

1. Identify your selected Innovative Program and the reasons for selection.

VWCS Brief History

Many years ago Van Wert City Schools (VWCS) realized that we needed to begin moving toward teaching 21st century skills. The community supported us in building a state of the art Middle School / High School Campus that is complete with high tech infrastructure. We are continuing the expansion by building a new elementary building, grades 1-5, on our campus and updating the current elementary site to become an early learning center housing our preschool and kindergarten classes.

Reasons for Selection

Our innovative program choice is the New Tech Network grant; as we reimagine teaching and learning in the Van Wert City Schools we realize that we must teach with the future in mind.

- 21st Century Skills We believe that now more than ever it is important that every child is exposed to many career opportunities and is equipped with skills that will arm him with a higher level and different skill set than we offer today. These skills, which will help to make our students competitive in a global society, encompass
 - Problem solving
 - Critical thinking
 - Entrepreneurship
 - Creativity
 - Collaboration
 - Oral & Written Communication Skills
 - Use of Technology
 - Citizenship
- Integration vs. Isolation We have implemented several project based and STEM programs as electives, as well as in isolation. These changes have helped us to see that these methods of teaching are more in line with the way today's student learns and we want to take a more systematic approach to meeting the needs of all students through the use of technology.
- **Engagement & Achievement -** New Tech Network has data proven results with increased student engagement and growth in reading and science achievement, college acceptance rates, and behavioral indicators. Implementing project based learning and one-to-one computing ratio will enable students to become self-directed learners.
- Assessment & Differentiated Learning Becoming a New Tech Network school will allow VWCS to reevaluate our use of assessment from summary based assessments to measurable learning outcomes. We will be able to link technology and assessment to drive future instruction for continuous improvement.
- **Training** As we researched New Tech Network, we realized that this program will help us move our vision forward and give us resources and training to help meet and support our needs. All staff will be trained and fully supported as they transition to project based teaching and learning of 21st century skills.

2. In what other school transformation strategies has your school been engaged and its/their status.

School Improvement - Our school was invited to be a part of the Ohio Improvement Process (OIP) cohort two of Ohio Department of Education (ODE) School Professional Development Grant (SPDG). Over the past three years our District Leadership Team (DLT) has used data to create and implement a district wide improvement plan. Leadership at each level is managed by a Building Leadership Team (BLT) consisting of teachers and administrators. The team is supported by the Southern Regional Education Board (SREB) Making Middle Grades Work (MMGW) and High Schools that Work (HSTW) framework. Our teachers have emerged as leaders in our region and often are called upon to present or work with other schools in their improvement endeavors. Professional development for all staff at VWCS is guided by the OIP, is embedded in our annual calendar, and is teacher directed. This process is a systemic change with shared leadership that we look to carry us into the future.

Ohio School to Watch (OSTW) – Since 2005, Van Wert Middle School (VWMS) has been designated as a National and Ohio School to Watch. In order to prepare students to be lifelong learners ready for college, career, and citizenship, the National Forum identifies middle grades schools that are academically excellent, responsive to the developmental needs and interests of young adolescents, and are socially equitable. The staff at VWMS uses the OSTW rubric to reflect and improve annually.

Project Based Learning - Five years ago our school became a Project Lead the Way school and has since been nationally certified as a PLTW school. The PLTW program has filtered down to our eighth graders through Gateway to Technology (GTT). GTT is a series of six project based modules that introduce middle school students to the engineering program. Next year the district plans to expand GTT to use all six middle school modules in grades 6-8. It is our hope that as the new elementary school opens, Project Lead the Way elementary units will be implemented in grades 4 and 5. This year, Van Wert High School (VWHS) was one of two high schools in Ohio selected for the Biomedical Sciences Curriculum. The first course will be implemented next school year. Each year thereafter, another course will be added until we are at full implementation. Three of our high school science teachers have partnered with others in the state and at The Ohio State University in the Ford PAS grant that is implementing project based teaching and learning in our science curriculum.

Math Science Coalition – VWCS has representation on the Ohio Math and Science Coalition (OMSC). This provides our district with firsthand knowledge concerning cutting edge information on STEM education across our state.

Public Access Television – This year, Van Wert City Council approached VWCS to operate the local public access television. VWHS has a state-of-the-art studio where students design, edit, and produce school district and community programming.

Senior Community Service Projects - Our school has developed senior projects which allow all students to meet a service learning requirement by working with local agencies to solve a problem important to them and their community. As a culminating activity, students are required to incorporate technology into presentations delivered to a panel of community agencies and school leaders.

3. Describe the capacity your LEA/school has to ensure a successful implementation.

VWCS is ripe for change. In recent years, we have implemented systems and protocols that we continue to use as we move forward. Over the last 3 years, shared leadership, teacher directed professional development, flexible schedules, norms of collaboration and data team meetings have become common practices that Van Wert City Schools have embraced. As we look to become a New Tech Network school many structures are already in place to facilitate a smooth transition.

We will be better equipped to share ideas and work collaboratively across grade levels and departments when we have grades 1-12 on the same campus. A state-of-the-art technological infrastructure and the coordination of services will allow for planning project based learning and continue the implementation of our shared vision toward teaching 21st Century Skills.

Our school district has learned that focusing on a few things and doing them well and deeply allows for success. As we move forward toward becoming a New Tech Network school, we will ensure that all key personnel are trained and feel confident that they can implement these new strategies with fidelity. It is our goal as a district to put into place all the protocols and safeguards necessary to be successful.

4. How will you integrate the specific Innovative Program into your school culture and current transformation plan/Scope of Work?

We intend to make this initiative a pre-school through 12th grade systemic change in philosophy of how we approach education in Van Wert City Schools. Our plan is to create a school culture that closely mimics the professional environment of the workplace and begins to match the pace of the change outside our classroom walls in the global marketplace. We will use Project Lead the Way elementary units to spark the interest in science and mathematics and to use technology to enhance learning. The middle school will adopt the New Tech Network project based learning and integrated lessons as its model across grades 6-8. In the high school, we will begin with a school within a school model at grade 9 and move toward full implementation over a 4 year period connecting the New Tech Network with programs already in place with Project Lead the Way Pre-engineering and Biomedical Sciences, project based learning in science from the Ford PAS grant and our Senior Community Service Projects. The district's expectation is that as we embark on this new journey all students will be re-energized and committed to a path of college and work-place readiness.

Our district plan currently focuses on two goals, to improve in the area of mathematics achievement and increase student attendance. Becoming a New Tech Network school will help us move forward toward meeting these goals. In our Race to the Top scope of work, we are committed to identifying and sharing transformational practices that increase student achievement in STEM areas. We also intend to pursue supportive funding opportunities that align with the expansion of these best practices. After much research, we believe that partnering with New Tech Network is the best opportunity for making these changes within our district.

Robust training is crucial to successful integration in becoming a New Tech Network school. We intend to take advantage of all training offered by the New Tech Network and use our embedded system of professional development to support teachers in continued learning. By using a train-the-trainer model, we have found that we can make the best use of our time and maximize our staff's learning with minimal costs.

Likewise, successful integration of the New Tech Network philosophy is having multiple, high quality, research based resources, on which to rely as we learn. We will utilize vibrant resources, such as Echo, in the implementation of project based instruction and to communicate with other stakeholders.

Successful Integration of the New Tech Network with fidelity includes collecting data, self reporting protocols, classroom walkthroughs, and other measures to track implementation across our district. We realize that with any change, time and commitment are essential to a total transformation; as we reimagine the way students are taught, we reinvent our legacy.

5. How will implementation of this Innovative Program increase student achievement and progress in your LEA/school for ALL students?

All means all. Our struggle continues to be meeting the needs of students with disabilities and those who are economically disadvantaged. These two populations are growing in our school district.

Van Wert City Schools Reading Achievement

One concern is the achievement gap between our overall passage percentage and that of the subgroups students with disabilities and economically disadvantaged. In 2009 - 2010, VWCS reports that 89.3 % of our non disabled population is proficient or above in reading, while only 52.9% of the students with disabilities are reported as proficient. VWCS also reports that 90.9 % of our non-economically disabled population is proficient, while only 75.8% of the Economic Disadvantaged are proficient in reading.

NT reports the following Reading Achievement

"Reading achievement was strong at grade 9 but decreased somewhat in upper grade levels. Overall, 89% of NT schools outperformed the 9th grade Reading rates of their comparison sites. In contrast, slightly lower rates were evident in 10th and 11th grade Reading – between 63-67% of NT sites surpassed comparison schools." Cited from NTN "Student Achievement Results" found online.

Van Wert City Schools reports the following Math Achievement

This concern continues in math achievement data. In 2009 – 2010, VWCS reports that 85.2 % of our non disabled population is proficient or above in math, while only 36.3 % of the students with disabilities are reported as proficient. Additionally, 86.2 % of our non-economically disabled population is proficient, while only 68.4 % of the Economic Disadvantaged are proficient in reading.

NT reports the following Math Achievement

"In Algebra I, 50% of the NT schools surpassed comparison school rates. Also, 38% of NT sites outperformed comparison schools in Algebra II, while 43% did so in Geometry." Cited from NTN "Student Achievement Results" found online.

Conclusions

When coupled with the already strong achievement test results of VWMS/HS, we believe that New Tech's philosophy will strengthen our ability to exceed standards for all students, particularly those who are not always reached by traditional teaching methods.

According to NT research, almost two-thirds of the NT schools had a 0% drop out rate across grades in 2008-09. Only five schools had a rate of 1-2%, while 3 sites had a rate higher than 2%. We know that reaching all students includes those who have chosen to drop out in the past. We are encouraged by NT's results.

With the implementation of NT into VWCS, our students will have the opportunity to participate in diverse course offerings and explore multiple career options. Using a project based curriculum, students will see knowledge as relevant and connected to the real world. We trust the proven NT model to help us empower students with 21st century skills that will prepare them for their futures.

Through our partnership with HSTW/MMGW, Van Wert Middle School and Van Wert High School use data from a student and teacher survey to verify the success of our curriculum and teaching methods. Every 2 years we conduct a survey of 8th and 12th grade students, as well as alumni, seeking data regarding our school. We use this data in combination with our OAA/OGT data to develop our schedules, teaching practices, and curricula. As we move forward with NT, we believe this data will be invaluable in helping us make sound decisions for our NT Master Plan.

6. How will you sustain this Innovative Program post RttT?

Sustainability is not just about operating a program beyond the original funding; it's about permanently shifting our school's culture and instructional leadership to incorporate STEM and project based instruction into everything we do.

VWCS has many strong structures and fiscal resources in place to sustain the changes necessary as we become a New Tech school system:

Professional culture

- Stakeholders and critical friends are actively involved providing feedback and have a voice in setting the direction of the school
 - VWCS Community Advisory Council
 - Collaborative leadership teams including DLT, BLT, Teacher Based Teams (TBT's), RttT transformation team
 - Community Agencies soliciting assistance from our Senior Community Service Projects
- o Comprehensive system of teacher led professional development
 - Flexible schedule to train and support teachers and support staff
 - Train-the-trainer system in place
 - Host school tours for sharing our strategies with other schools through the SREB and OSTW school networks
 - teacher leaders present best practices at local, state, and national conferences
- o Using formative and summative data to improve student learning
 - Classroom walk through data
 - Self assessment data including the Survey of Enacted Curriculum
 - Using Ohio's 5 step process to discuss data and look at common assessment data
- Partnership Development & Financial
 - o Businesses and community groups view the school as a valuable asset and have supported the school with financial and other resources.
 - Our business department has a partnership with guest instructors from several area businesses including Central Mutual Insurance Company
 - Braun Industry currently supports PLTW Pre-engineering by offering mentorships, summer internships, and scholarships. We are currently finalizing partnerships with other local industries
 - Through The Ohio State University Ford PAS grant, the VWHS science department is working with a local alternative energy company, Iberdrola Renewables
 - VWCS has a partnership with Northwest State Community College and Wright State
 University which provides financial support, including materials and equipment
 - Our school or district is willing to secure or reallocate adequate and reliable district funding to support various elements of the program
 - We do not plan to use the grant money to pay salaries. We plan to use staff already in place.
 - The money received will be for professional development, technology, and other equipment and supplies.

VWCS intends to cultivate the following structures and fiscal resources to sustain the changes necessary as we become a New Tech school system:

Professional culture

- A district wide coach with time dedicated to training and supporting staff in project based learning and 21st Century classroom practices will be hired and trained.
- o Teachers will be trained in the concepts of project based learning and supported in implementing project based learning into their classrooms.
- A plan will be developed to provide integrated coursework and projects into daily curriculum.
- Service learning and authentic assessment, including community partners, will be blended into projects.
- Teachers and students will be trained in the use of NTN Echo & Google tools for communication and collaboration.
- Staff will collaboratively review and examine student products and projects to reflect on rigor and relevance.
- Parents, staff members, district representatives, and community members will be actively involved providing feedback and having a voice in setting the direction and climate of the school.

Partnership Development

- o PLTW Biomedical Sciences will begin soliciting community partnerships.
- o Teachers will submit PBL projects to the NTN project library.
- o VWCS will host tour groups sponsored by NTN.
- VWCS will regularly send staff to NTN national conference.
- VWCS will offer all students opportunities to take courses from a broad range of rigorous college offerings both on campus, online, and at higher education institutions.
- VWCS will develop relationships to influence practices at local higher educational institutions such as Wright State Lake Campus, Northwest State Community College, University of Findlay, and OSU Lima/Rhodes State.

• Financial

- VWCS will secure and reallocate funds to support the elements of the NTN program including technology, professional development, and staffing.
- VWCS will continue to be a valuable asset to our community, supporting the school with financial and other resources.

7. Describe any potential challenges or barriers with the mandatory professional development and Innovative Program requirements for the framework that you have selected. What strategies will your LEA/school implement to overcome these potential obstacles?

Mandatory Professional Development

VWCS staff sees professional development as part of its ongoing responsibility. Through the Ohio Improvement Process (OIP), we have developed a structure that allows for professional development to filter throughout the staff, which is ongoing, job embedded, and self sustaining. For the past three years, dates have been identified on the school calendar that are designed for continuous training. Aligned to the core content state standards, professional development structures will continue to mature and will include coaching and train-the-trainer.

The New Tech School director, IT administrator, and teaching staff will be selected from our current staff and will attend the training as set forth on the New Tech Conditions for Success rubric.

Other New Tech Requirements

After reviewing the New Tech Conditions for Success Rubric and assessing our current situations, foresee no major barriers. Our Middle School / High School Campus, opened in 2006, has classroom learning environments large enough to support team teaching in a technology-rich environment for 21st century learners. We have numerous community partnerships embedded in our current programs as discussed earlier in question 6.

Strategies for addressing challenges

As we address potential challenges during the implementation of New Tech, there are several strategies we will implement.

- Educating and involving all stakeholders concerning the New Tech philosophy
- Selecting and training the appropriate staff to ensure the success of the program
- Collaboration and dialogue between traditional staff and New Tech staff to ensure shared and blended vision of a school within a school
- Tapping into the New Tech Network of schools to develop an appropriate use protocol for students and technology
- Transparent communication in all areas of creating the New Tech school (i.e. redefining instructional spaces, scheduling, admissions)
- Embedding service learning into the culture of our New Tech school

8. How will the implementation of this Innovative Program increase college and career readiness of all students?

New Tech will arm all students in VWCS to become college and career ready. VWCS will do this by incorporating David T. Conley's four dimensions of college and work readiness and the following strategies:

- Mimicking college, career, and work We will offer college courses to students as they become ready for such challenges. 97% of NT Alumni survey respondents reported that having one-to-one technology and the critical thinking focus of NT high schools helped to meet the demands of their college. Focusing on the skill areas of oral communication, written communication, working in groups, and access to college courses will be key components to job / career readiness.
- Closing the Achievement Gap Ultimately, we hope to close the achievement gap that
 currently exists in our district and allow all students access to college and 21st century career
 opportunities.
- <u>Decreasing dropout rate</u> Currently VWHS has a 6.5% dropout rate. While researching NTN, we noted that 2/3 of the NT schools had a 0% drop out rate.
- Exposing students to different career paths There will be many opportunities for students to see and experience different career options in the global economy.
- <u>Increasing acceptance to college</u> --We noted that 85% of all New Tech high school students who applied were accepted to at least 1 post secondary institution.
- Maintaining a culture that promotes trust, respect and responsibility According to the NT Alumni Survey, "At NT schools, students and teachers alike have exceptional ownership of the learning experience and their school environment. Working on projects and in teams, students are accountable to their peers and acquire a level of responsibility similar to what they would experience in a professional work environment."

9. Identify a timeline to achieve a successful implementation.

August to April 2011

- Continuing PLTW pre-engineering in grades 9-12
- Planning for possible implementation of new PLTW elective courses
- Continuing Gateway in 8th grade & plan for implementation at 6th & 7th grade
- Researching implementation of elementary modules of Project Lead the Way at grades 4 and 5
- Researching the integration of television production curriculum and Public Access
 Television into project based learning
- Planning Implementation of 1st course in PLTW "Principles of the Biomedical Sciences" at VWHS in 9th grade
- Researching New Tech Network and making a site visit to a NT school (New Tech at Garrett Morgan High School in Cleveland, Ohio)
- Writing the Innovative Programs Grant Application for RttT

May to July 2011

- Contact NTN and indicate interest in implementing a NT high school with the vision of having a New Tech District (grades PK-12)
- NTN completes review of needs and invites district stakeholders to attend Executive Tour
- Groundbreaking ceremony for VWCS new elementary school grades 1-5
- Attend the New Tech High School Annual Conference in Grand Rapids, Michigan

August to December - 2011

- VWCS submits NTN school Application
- Upon district acceptance, NTN conducts Readiness Visit
- NTN develops products and services proposal for the agreement
- VWCS begins Master Planning process
- VWHS implements PLTW Biomedical Sciences "Principles of the Biomedical Sciences" in grade 9
- Continue developing high school PLTW pre-engineering curriculum with increased focus on building business / industry partnerships
- VWMS implements Gateway modules at grades 6 & 7
- Possible implementation of technology modules in the Goedde 5th grade: Youth Touch Technology
- Continue developing television production and Public Access Television integrating project based learning
- VWCS continues planning for all current elementary classes to merge into the new 1-5 bldg and preschool/kindergarten building
- VWCS selects New Tech Director (Principal)

January to February 2012

- VWCS turns in Master Plan for approval
- VWCS Director and Thought Partner attend NTN Leadership Residency and begin work on Echo Leadership Residency course

March to July - 2012

- VWCS Director completes Echo Leadership Residency course deliverables
- Van Wert Elementary School (VWES) construction completed
- Plans for implementing PLTW elementary modules in grades 4 & 5 finalized
- Planning and training continue for Biomedical Sciences, "Human Body Systems," in grade
 10
- All staff in place to implement New Tech School based on approved plan
- Technology ordered & facilities planning work started
- Staff attends shadowing experience at a NTN demonstration site
- Technology installed and configured
- All New Tech school staff, including technology support staff, attend New Schools training

August - 2012

- VWHS implements PLTW Biomedical Sciences, "Human Body Systems," in grade 10.
- Planning begins for Implementation of year 2 of New Tech course to be added.
- VWMS implements PLTW 5th grade stand alone project base units.

August - 2013

- VWHS implements PTLW Biomedical Sciences, "Medical Interventions," in grade 11.
- Planning begins for implementation of year 3 of New Tech courses to be added.
- VWES implements PLTW 4th grade stand alone project based units.

August - 2014

- VWHS implements PLTW Biomedical Sciences, "Biomedical Innovations," in grade 12.
- Planning begins for implementation of year 4 of New Tech courses to be added.
- VWES implements PLTW 3rd grade stand alone project based unit.

August - 2015

• VWCS full implementation of New Tech Network Middle School / High School with Elementary STEM Project Based Learning.

10. Why should your LEA/school be awarded an Innovative Programs grant?

Why should VWCS be awarded this grant?

VWCS concurs with John Dewey's educational philosophy. He stated, "What the best and wisest parent wants for his own child that must the community want for all its children." VWCS desires to provide an excellent education for all of our students. While many of our students are successful, we lament that others are not. Therefore, we are committed to meeting the needs of these students and believe that project based learning, curricular integration, and technology all supply much needed strategies for these students to be successful in the 21st century.

VWCS passionately believes that we can offer our students the world! Although we live in a small, rural community, technology today has propelled us into a future with global awareness, global access, and global possibilities. Where once small, rural school districts were limited in offering their students access beyond their small town, with a click of a mouse, our students can now share a classroom with other students around the globe. Given the technology and the expertise to guide our 21st century students, the possibilities are limitless. The 21st century world clamors for students to be problem solving, collaborative, creative thinkers. Our traditional strategies, at best, give our students a window to knowledge of the past, but deny them the opportunity to open the doors of the future.

Three years ago, we had the vision to begin the journey as we embraced the Ohio Improvement Process and set in place many structures for collaboration, shared leadership, professional development, and reflective practice using data as our guide. We want to become a New Tech school so we can make a substantial change that follows in the path we have already begun and will enable us to continue building on the foundation we have begun constructing. As a guiding light for our community, Van Wert City Schools has provided stability, vision, and leadership for many community services, such as Family Children First Council and Public Access Television. Our desire is to continue growing this role in order to serve our students and community, both of which would be enhanced by becoming a New Tech Network school.

We all stand at educational crossroads today. Will we continue down a comfortable and familiar path that is successful for some but that also discriminates against others, or will we embrace the road less traveled, with contemporary, research-based practices? Will we be defeated by those opposing change, resting in the laurels of yesterday, or will we rise to meet the challenges of the 21st century, preparing our students to become tomorrow's leaders?

The road less traveled: for VWCS, winning this New Tech Network grant would begin a collaborative journey with like-minded educators from California, Indiana, Ohio, and New York who have taken the less traveled route with courage, conviction, and dedication to the needs of their students. Like VWCS, they have also determined that John Dewey's assertion that the "community" must want the best for all of its children. VWCS desires to join New Tech Network on the educational journey to the future!

SECTION D

Please include LEA Name, IRN#, and proposed Innovation Program information at the top of this table. Include a breakdown of the annual expenditures anticipated in each budget category during each grant-year that equals the total dollar amount of the innovation program selected.

Proposed Innovation:								
Budget Categories	FY2011	FY2012	FY2013	FY2014	Total			
Salaries (100)	0	0	0	0	\$ -			
Retirement/ Fringe Benefits (200)	0	0	0	0	\$ -			
Purchase Services (400)	125,000	125,000	125,000	125,000	\$500,000			
Supplies (500)	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000	\$100,000			
Capital Outlay (600)	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	\$400,000			
Other (800)					\$ -			
9. Total Costs	\$250,000	\$250,000	\$250,000	\$250,000	\$1,000,000			

RttT Innovative Programs grant applications may be found on the Ohio Department of Education website under Race to the Top at:

http://www.ode.state.oh.us/GD/Templates/Pages/ODE/ODEDetail.aspx?page=694

Interested LEA/Schools are required to submit the requested grant information electronically to <u>jay.keefer@ode.state.oh.us</u> no later than Friday, April 8, 2011.

Questions may be directed to Jay R. Keefer Director, ONET (Ohio Network for Education Transformation) Center for School Improvement 614.644.2605 jay.keefer@ode.state.oh.us

Barbara Boone
Director, Office of
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