



Improve student achievement by educating families about the importance of reading aloud to their children, and provide an exciting program in which to encourage 15 minutes of read-aloud each night for one month.

Foundation for Fort Mill Schools

Innovative Classroom Project Grant Proposal

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Project Description:

One School One Book is a yearly family literacy initiative, created by the Read to Them organization. Their mission is to encourage families to read quality children's novels aloud, together, at home. The project is designed to unite an entire school community of parents, teachers and students by choosing a single chapter book to read over the course of one month. The program is designed on a simple premise and simple operating procedures. Every family and faculty member at Sugar Creek Elementary is given a copy of the same children's novel. Over the course of the month the Sugar Creek Sharks will do a variety of activities at school to promote interest and discussion of the book. Examples include a kick-off school assembly, school-wide art and writing contests and daily trivia questions delivered by Dr. Frattaroli via our Shark News Network. The school-wide immersion into one book encourages discussion about the book which can extend from the classroom to the playground and cafeteria; involving every layer of the school community. While the One School One Book program has great potential for implementing a school-wide shared reading experience, the program also has the potential to reach across the entire district, in which to involve the entire Fort Mill community. If awarded the Innovative Classroom Project grant, Sugar Creek Elementary will use the funds to purchase the lifetime membership materials for the One School One Book promotion, which can be used year after year at Sugar Creek. Our induction into the program will also make Sugar Creek Elementary School the first school in South Carolina to participate in One School One Book.

Objective:

Improve student achievement by educating families about the importance of reading aloud to children of all ages, and provide an exciting program in which to encourage 15 minutes of reading aloud to children of all ages each night for one month.

- Provide simple outline for parents to explain the research which supports reading-aloud to children
- Provide a link on Sugar Creek Web-site in which parents can access supporting articles and reading tips

The following annotated bibliography supports the objectives stated in this proposal:

One school + one book = active readers: All-school reading program involves students and their families. (2009). *Reading Today*, 27 (3), 44. Retrieved from EBSCOhost.

This article describes the One School One Book literacy program that created a buzz in several elementary schools in the U.S. It notes that the Jane H. Bryan Elementary School has implemented the One School One Book program which seemed very effective in creating a buzz about books on the campus and has improved students' academic performance due to heightened student interest in reading. Also, includes an overview of the One School One Book literacy program in the U.S.

Schwartz, D.M. (1995). Ready, set read—20 minutes each day is all you'll need. *Smithsonian*, 25 (11), 82. Retrieved from EBSCO host.

Article focuses on the research of Jim Trelease, author of [The Read-Aloud Handbook](#), who emphasizes that making time for books creates a lifetime love of reading and that it is the single most important factor in reading success.

Zehr, M. (2010). Reading Aloud to Teens Gains Favor. *Education Week*, 29(16), 1-13. Retrieved from EBSCOhost.

This article reports that education researchers are recommending that middle and high school teachers consider reading aloud to their students to help improve literacy.

Benefits:

The Sugar Creek Elementary One School One Book project will impact each student, parent and teacher in our school community. According to the most recent data available, the Sugar Creek population includes approximately 750 students. Since the project goal is to encourage family reading time, the book is chosen with great care. The best books are those which will be understood by early readers and still interest experienced readers, for example, The Indian in the Cupboard. For this reason, the One Book concept can easily be modified to include each elementary, middle and high school in the Fort Mill School District. This project is then called One District One Book. When this long-term goal is realized, there is the potential to impact each and every student in the district, as well as educating and encouraging parents about the importance of reading aloud to children of all ages, which has the potential to benefit the future students of our district. By involving the entire district in this innovative literacy project, the “book buzz” is extended from the playground to the cafeteria, to the grocery store and church! With an initiative this large, there is a great potential for media coverage, by which even more attention to literacy is realized. By creating a community of readers, we can make huge gains in early literacy as well as creating lifelong readers.

Outcomes and Impact:

As a result of the One School One Book initiative, students will engage in a structured program which encourages family reading time. According to Krashen’s The Power of Reading, children who are read to at home, read more on their own (Krashen 2004). The text also provides data on controlled studies which indicate that children who are read to regularly at home or at school make superior gains in reading comprehension and vocabulary (Krashen 2004). The impact of this program will be immediate. Parents will be reading with their children, teachers will be sharing their ideas about the book with their classes, administration will be encouraging the students with daily trivia and students will be engaging about what they have read. By participating in this program yearly, research indicates that long-term, Sugar Creek students should show gains in reading comprehension and vocabulary, which would be evidenced by end of grade tests reading achievement.

Timeline:

- **March/April:** During the month leading up to the kick-off event, daily clues will be given as to the “big event” coming up. The school will be decorated with clues as well about the big event. One School One Book will also coincide with the school spring book fair. There will be a parent night which will incorporate book fair as well as One School One Book information.
- **April 11th:** Kick-off assembly (1:30-2:00) – Students, teachers and administrators will be gathered. Parents will be invited to join since the initiative is a family project. The goal is to have a local celebrity or athlete here to help promote the event.
- **April 17th:** Family Night for the Books a Million book fair as well as promotion for One School One Book.
- **Daily April 11th- May 3th:** Morning announcements will include trivia questions presented by Dr. Frattaroli, prizes will be given to students who demonstrate having read the passage the night before.
- **May 4th:** Closing Celebration Assembly (8:00-8:15): this assembly will be planned to include teachers, parents, students and administration. Prizes and certificates will be given for various criteria which is to be determined.

Budget:

Item	Vendor	Quantity	Cost	Total
*Lifetime Membership One School One Book	Read to Them Foundation	1	\$500.00	\$500.00 Paid for by Foundation
Books	Read to Them Foundation	671	\$5.00	\$3355.00
T-shirts for staff	Indoff	70	\$7.00	\$490.00
Assembly/School Promotional Decorations and Posters	Indoff & Other	n/a	\$750.00-\$1750.00	\$750.00
Estimated Total				Minimum: \$5095.00

**Note: Membership to One School One Book includes materials to implement program, quiz questions, assembly scripts, reading schedules, substantial discount on books and free shipping.*

References

Krashen, S.D. (2004). *The power of reading: Insights from the research*. Westport, Conn: Libraries Unlimited.