

Susan B. Anthony Elementary School Library:
Updating and Adding New Materials
to the Library's Collection
in Corona, California

Grant Proposal

INFO 520

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Executive Summary

The Susan B. Anthony Elementary School Library in Corona, California, proposes to purchase new books for the schools fiction and nonfiction collections. It also proposes to purchase Accelerated Reading (AR) tests which are a part of the schools literacy program that is run through the school's library. This will allow the library to update their collection by purchasing new and updated nonfiction books as well as new release fiction. The purchasing of AR tests will also allow for the expansion of the Accelerated Reading program that every student in the second through sixth grade is required to participate in. The Susan B. Anthony Library requests \$20, 425 for a 5 month period in 2011.

Setting

Susan B. Anthony Elementary:

Susan B. Anthony Elementary School (SBA) is located in Corona, Ca in the middle of an affluent neighborhood. It is one of the 31 elementary schools in the Corona-Norco Unified School District, in a city of over 150,000 residents. The Corona-Norco Unified School District is the largest in Riverside County and known for its exceptional schools. Susan B. Anthony is a California Distinguished School and prides itself with its exceptional learning environment.

Susan B. Anthony Elementary School's Mission Statement and Vision:

Susan B. Anthony works to follow this mission statement: "Susan B. Anthony. Where High Expectations produce High Achievement." As well, Susan B. Anthony looks at this vision as their guide:

Amidst a climate of high expectations, Susan B. Anthony Elementary School provides ALL students the superior academic as well as extracurricular opportunities, one student at a time. Our dedicated staff joins

with the school community to provide an outstanding learning environment for our students based on the concepts of Life Skills, Multiple Intelligences and belief that all students are gifted in different ways.

The Susan B. Anthony Library:

The SBA library supports both the mission statement and vision of its school. It is among the dedicated staff that works to provide all it can for its students and provide the best and most outstanding learning environment possible. The SBA library was founded, along with the school, in 1995. The library was operated out of a temporary building until 1999 when a new campus was built. The library tripled in size, allowing for a more permanent situation and room to grow.

The library is opened five days a week during school hours. Every class has a scheduled time in which they come to the library for 30 minutes. The library has a curriculum program in which the students are taught how to access the library. Students are taught how to find a book that they want by looking on the shelves or accessing the library's catalog on the computers provided.

The Accelerated Reading program (AR) is also run from the school library. The AR program is used by the Corona-Norco School District in all elementary and middle school classrooms. At Susan B. Anthony, students in grades 2-6 are required to use this program as a way of assessing their reading and comprehension levels. The students read an "AR book" (which are marked with AR labels in the school library) in the appropriate level, and then take a computerized quiz on the book. When a student has successfully passed multiple tests in their AR level they move up a level (Institute of Education Services 2010). The school library heavily supports the AR program by providing AR books that have corresponding AR tests the students may take.

Collection and Circulation:

The SBA library currently holds 13,319 titles and in the 2009-2010 school year had a circulation of 16,637 titles. The books are split into easy nonfiction, nonfiction, easy fiction and fiction categories. The “easy” categories are most appropriate for grades Kindergarten through second and the rest are for grades third through sixth.

Patrons:

The SBA library patrons are all 877 students of the Susan B. Anthony Elementary School. Every student each week has an opportunity to visit the library and checkout a book or use the computers if needed. The library sets half an hour blocks for each class and each student, Kindergarten through sixth grade, is free to use the library during the morning before school has started.

Library Staff:

The library staff consists of one person, the library clerk, Ms. Susan Lundberg. She has been with the school for 9 years. Ms. Lundberg is solely responsible for the curriculum the library uses, as well as the purchasing of new material which includes all books and AR tests.

Statement of Need

Multiple studies, including one in New York and another in Idaho have proven the effectiveness of a strong school library program in creating students who “are more likely to thrive academically” (Lance 14). School libraries promote reading and allow a place where students can learn to access information and gain knowledge on their own.

To best serve the students of Susan B. Anthony, the school library must function at its very best. An outdated collection and an overused selection of AR tests does not allow for this. A weakening economy and therefore, a nonexistent library budget have taken away the library’s

ability to purchase new material. Fundraising and donations have been promoted but these do not allow for the overhaul that the library is asking for here.

As part of a strong library program the AR program must function at its best as well. There is an AR test for any book a child wishes to read. AR tests cost the library money and therefore, new tests are not being purchased. Any student who wants to take an AR test on a newer book cannot. This forces students to read from the same list of books, making it difficult at times for students to find a new test to take. The library's goal is to promote joy and excitement in reading and in the process create strong readers. This is difficult to do when a student cannot receive AR credit with the book they are most interested in reading. The Accelerated Reading program is not designed to force a child to read from a preselected list of books, but rather enhance reading and comprehension skills with books they want to read.

Proposed Initiative

By updating the library's collection, as well as adding new AR tests the library will be able to create a more relevant collection for its students and continue to follow the school's vision in providing "an outstanding learning environment" (SBA mission).

Project Goal:

The SBA library proposes to purchase 1,000 new titles as well as 500 new AR tests. This will increase the library's collection by approximately 7.5 percent and allow any outdated resource books and damaged books, which cannot be fixed, to be removed from the library's collection. The 500 new AR tests will allow an approximately 5 percent increase in AR tests that the schools owns.

Required Resources:

Due to the SBA library staff being only one person it will be necessary to hire a second library clerk. This person will work alongside Ms. Lundberg in purchasing new material, weeding out necessary books and placing new books on the shelves. This clerk will also help with the purchasing of AR tests. Over a five month period the clerk will work part time at 50 percent of a full time library clerk's salary. This is \$12.50 an hour at 15 hours a week for 20 weeks.

In order to update the library's collection in both nonfiction and fiction categories the library will be purchasing 1,000 books. Each book is approximately \$30 and includes barcodes, spine labels and AR labels. These 1,000 books will be most notably used to purchase nonfiction books on insects, mammals, dinosaurs and biographies. As well as, new release fiction books within the last three years and any chapter book series that needs to be updated. Also, teacher and student recommendations will be taken into account.

At \$3 a piece, 500 AR tests will also be purchased (Renaissance Learning). The tests chosen to be purchased will be both based on teacher and student recommendation and the books that will be newly purchased.

Proposed Implementation Schedule:

The purchasing and implementation of new materials for the library will take place over a 5 month period. The first step will consist of hiring a library clerk. Then both Ms. Lundberg and the new clerk will access the library's catalog, making notice of weaknesses in the library's collection. Outdated books will be removed as well as damaged books that are no longer useable. No more than 100 hundred books are estimated to be removed.

The next step will consist of teacher and student input. Teachers will be asked to comprise a list of books, type of books and AR tests they would like the library to have or gain more of.

Two hundred AR tests will be purchased immediately off of teacher and student recommendations that will be gathered or have been mentioned in the past. The lack of AR tests has been one of the largest complaints and therefore, the library would like to offer some remedy to this as soon as possible.

The library will then comprise a list of recommended books to be purchased. This list will be comprised of teacher and student recommendations in addition to the library's own assessment of what is needed, and the library's collection development policy. This policy includes updating resource books, and the acquiring of the newest biographies of the country's leaders, newest award winning books, new-release fiction and the next book in a series.

After the new books have been purchased the remaining 300 AR tests will be purchased based on the new books that were bought. The tests will then be immediately made available to the students.

Lastly, when the new books have arrived, they will be cataloged into the system and placed on the shelves, making them available to the students.

Evaluation of Project:

This project is expected to have a positive impact on the teachers and students of Susan B. Anthony Elementary. Dissatisfaction with what the library has been able to offer has been growing over the past few years. A 1,000 book expansion of the library is highly supported and looked forward too. The 500 more AR tests will also be greatly received by students who have felt confined to a limited number of books.

Proposed Budget

Salaries of Staff

Library Clerk at 12.50hr

\$3,750

<i>Resources</i>	
Library books \$15 each (Includes barcode, AR label, Spine label)	\$15,000
AR tests \$3 each	\$1,500
<i>Office Supplies</i>	
Book tape	\$65.00
Printer ink	\$60.00
Miscellaneous	\$50.00
Total:	\$20,425.00

Conclusion

Without having the ability to fully update the library's collection, the Susan B. Anthony Library cannot provide the best service to its students. Students are left with outdated resources books, as well as missing out on the newest and greatest fiction books that can inspire excitement and desire to read. Lifelong readers are lifelong learners, this starts in elementary school. With a strong collection the SBA library can continue to promote the school's mission of having high expectations that produce high achievement.

Appendix

- A. Ms. Lundberg resume
- B. Susan B. Anthony administration staff list
- C. Corona-Norco Unified School District board members

References

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