

“Enhancing Education Through Technology Grant (EETT)” **Project SMARTT** (*Success in Math And Reading Through Technology*)

The Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) awarded Meridian Community Unit School District #223 an “Enhancing Education Through Technology Grant (EETT)” in the amount of \$379,916. ISBE awarded 16 grants out of 94 applicants in the state. **Project SMARTT** (*Success in Math And Reading Through Technology*) will begin this summer with professional development training and continue throughout the school year until June 30, 2009.

Focus: *To integrate technology* into curriculum goals, school improvement plans, professional learning communities and the everyday activities of 123 educators (teachers, administrators, and library media specialists) and 1,989 students in our four schools.

Project Goal: *To apply technology solutions* as a principal approach to improve academic achievement of all students, ensuring that they are technologically literate by the end of 8th grade and ready to thrive in a knowledge-based global society.

Objectives: *(1) To increase academic achievement levels of students (principally targeting grades 1–8) in reading, language arts, and math subjects by integrating advanced technologies with daily instruction and engaged learning into curriculum; and (2) To improve instruction by providing intensive, high quality on-going research based teacher training and support for all teachers.*

The **SMARTT** goal/objectives are closely aligned and will integrate Illinois Learning Standards (ILS), National Educational Technology Standards (NETS), and “Six Essential Learnings” into the MCUSD Curriculum goals.

SMARTT ensures that all students and teachers have increased access to technology by providing participating classrooms with 4 up-to-date computers/monitors (less than 5 yrs. old), a projector, printer/scanner, laptop, digital camera, educational software and training materials, along with training consultants, and professional developer/coaches. One Interactive White Board will be purchased per grade level (1-8), and two wireless mobile labs (one for each elementary building).

Professional development, training, planning, and curriculum review will occur during the regular school hours, after school hours, and during the summer. This training will be individualized for each teacher. Teachers will be trained in: (1) “Framework for Engaged Learning and Technology Integration”; (2) AIMSweb assessment system; (3) Integration of math and reading into curriculum and instruction; (4) Professional Learning Communities; (5) District learning strategies (i.e. on-line professional development, dual credit, etc.); (6) Software Integration (i.e. Reading a-z, new math, Jumpstart, Reading Navigator, Inspiration, KidPix, on-line resources, etc.); and (7) Interactive white board use.

Teachers will have an opportunity for monthly professional learning communities’ meetings and trainings. They will be able to develop engaged learning lesson plans and post them on the web. Teacher leaders will be trained as math and integrated technology coaches in a “Train the Trainer” Model. This will ensure this project will be sustained long after funding is over. Students will work collaboratively to develop portfolio projects and post them on the web. They will demonstrate ongoing understanding of their responsibility with digital citizenship. Older students will mentor younger ones through the E-Pal mentor system using the Internet. Parents will be offered monthly evening workshops on how the **SMARTT** new emerging technology solutions and teacher professional development efforts are being implemented in the MCUSD classrooms and curriculum.