

Hi Tim

I have a proposal for you - it's not a robotics club, but I believe something even better. I would like to volunteer to lead a group of grade 4,5,6 students to help develop a creative computing culture, using as a catalyst this lovely colourful book - "[Invent to Learn - Guide to the MicroBit](#)".



I'll spare you all of the details here, but a key one is to give each student a couple of MicroBits and a copy of the book for the duration of the project (February to May). They would use them in school as well as more importantly at home, including family members and community members, and would also engage their lower grade level "buddies" in various projects. A planned goal will be to collectively complete all of the projects (or extensions of them) in the book at least once (there are around 30 or so), as well as add many new ones. Students will choose only projects they are interested in, and there will be a key group that will take on leading tasks (documentation, communications, materials coordination). Projects will be celebrated (not evaluated) during Education Week (first week of May) - as well as being on display throughout the school and demonstrated on a regular basis. Parents will be encouraged to be active participants as well.

If this were a club, it would be called the "Adding Colours to the Crayon Box" club. But it is not a club, and it is not about the MicroBit - it's about developing a culture that welcomes and includes things like MicroBits. This culture will exist over all time (i.e. throughout the day and beyond) and beyond the walls of the school (i.e. at home and in the community). Students and possibly their families will begin to develop a fluency with new materials to let them express themselves in new creative ways.

I will supply the MicroBits, as well as other materials, and I will be receiving 20 copies of the books around February 1. What I need from you is permission to work with students and families, as well as a space to do so at the school. My thought is to come in Tuesdays and Thursdays from 12 - 3PM, but I am flexible on timing. Another ask is of teachers - to let students work on their projects some of the time while I am there.

I'd be happy to come in to discuss and fill in more details and answer any questions you may have.

Thanks for your consideration,

Glenn

P.S..I've also included below the ChatGPT generated version of a proposal for this project. It lays things out in perhaps a more familiar way and might even have more of the details in it. I went through several prompts to refine it (it was fun).

ChatGPT 3.5 version

Subject: Proposal for "Adding Colours to the Crayon Box" MicroBit Initiative at First Ave. P.S.

Dear Tim,

I hope this letter finds you well. I am excited to propose the integration of the "Adding Colours to the Crayon Box" MicroBit Initiative at First Ave. P.S. This initiative aims to inspire creativity, collaboration, and community engagement among your students, parents, and families, seamlessly becoming a part of your everyday school culture.

Objective:

The initiative will bring together approximately 20 students, along with their parents and families, to explore the creative potential of MicroBits. The goal is to collectively complete each project in "The Invent to Learn Guide to the MicroBit" book and contribute new ideas.

Key Activities:

Project-Based Exploration: Students and families will collaboratively work on MicroBit projects, fostering creativity both at school and at home.

Outreach and Collaboration: Club members will share projects with peers and younger students, creating a supportive learning environment.

Project Display: Completed projects will be showcased as part of the regular school day, providing a continuous opportunity for everyone to observe, try out, and interact with the innovative creations.

Parent and Family Involvement: Club members will take materials home to work on projects, encouraging collaborative learning beyond the school setting. Parents and families are invited to actively participate in this learning journey.

Leadership Development: Students will take on leadership roles in documentation, communications, and materials organization, fostering a culture of shared responsibility.

MicroBit and Resource Availability:

Each student will receive a copy of "The Invent to Learn Guide to the MicroBit" book and a couple of MicroBits for use both at school and at home. This initiative aims to cultivate a culture of learning that extends beyond the school walls into the students' homes and communities.

Integration into School Culture:

Projects will be on continuous display during regular school hours, integrating the initiative seamlessly into your ordinary school culture. Emphasizing the importance of regular school time for these activities ensures accessibility and participation for all students.

Collective Goal:

The initiative aims to collectively complete each project in the book and generate new project ideas, fostering a culture of continuous learning and exploration.

Conclusion:

The "Adding Colours to the Crayon Box" MicroBit Initiative aligns with First Ave. P.S.'s commitment to providing an engaging and inclusive educational environment. I believe this initiative will cultivate technical skills, creativity, and community bonds as an integral part of our everyday school experience.

I look forward to your support in integrating this exciting initiative into your school culture. Thank you for considering my proposal. I am eager to discuss this further at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,

Glenn

Supplementary Notes:

Project Expansion:

In addition to the MicroBit projects, students will have the opportunity to enhance existing school projects by incorporating sound, motion, and lights. This exploration is not just about the technology but emphasizes the process of creative experimentation with these materials and ideas.

Student Leadership:

A core group of motivated, independent student leaders will play a central role in leading and organizing the initiative. As the liaison between the school and students, I will facilitate and support their leadership, providing guidance and resources as needed.

Integration with Curriculum:

The initiative will be seamlessly integrated with the curriculum as required or desired. This ensures that the exploration and creativity align with educational goals while maintaining a flexible and adaptive approach.

Cultivating Thinking Skills:

The overarching culture of the initiative is one that encourages thinking about thinking. It goes beyond job preparation, fostering a mindset of curiosity, exploration, and critical thinking. The emphasis is on developing cognitive skills that are valuable across various domains of learning.

Not a Robotics Club:

While not a robotics club, the initiative will explore and utilize robotics for certain projects. The focus remains on the broader creative and experimental use of technology rather than a specific robotics curriculum.

Social Nature of the Initiative:

The social aspect is key to the initiative's success. Feedback on multiple fronts will be actively sought and archived, fostering a collaborative and community-driven learning environment.

Documentation in the Style of Reggio Emilia:

Documentation of the learning process will be approached in the style of Reggio Emilia, capturing the richness of student experiences and reflections. This documentation will be shared widely, creating a valuable resource for the school community.

Privacy Assurance:

Privacy will always be ensured with respect to documentation and communications. The initiative is committed to maintaining a secure and confidential environment for all participants.

These supplementary elements further emphasize the inclusive, collaborative, and privacy-conscious nature of the "Adding Colours to the Crayon Box" MicroBit Initiative.