

LEARNING INNOVATED WITH IPADS

In the spring of 2013, Custer School District 4th Grade Teacher Eve Trandem received a Classroom Innovation Grant from the South Dakota Department of Education, which she used to purchase 25 iPads and enhance her students' individual inquiry and learning needs, independent investigation and project creation and presentation.

With heavy focus on collaborative reading and writing and a flexible learning environment for students, Trandem had three major goals for the iPad use in her classroom:

1. To engage all students in a creative and collaborative environment by increasing technology use in reading and writing through differentiated instruction.
2. To develop a platform for students to share authentic learning.
3. To provide an opportunity for students to access authentic real-world information in support of the Common Core shifts in learning.

"Since the integration, the iPads have become an essential tool in our classroom routine and have opened the door to a world of unlimited learning opportunities," Trandem said.

Trandem said the iPads are used in many educational ways in the classroom, including vocabulary exercises, reading and math instruction, project creation and information gathering, as well as



geological exploration of the Earth through an app titled "Earth-Viewer", which she said was a class favorite. Students are also taught responsible ways to research a subject using the iPad, said Trandem.

A small group of students shared some of their favorite applications with the Custer School Board, explaining to the board members what an application did and why they found it educational.

Trandem said using the iPad has worked wonders in her classroom.

"The iPads have completely changed what our classroom looks like, sounds like and the level of active student engagement," Trandem said.

