

## Holocaust Grant Report

Over one hundred and five 7<sup>th</sup> grade Language Arts and Social Studies ITEC (Integrating Technology to Enrich the Curriculum) students participated in a unit of study that covered the Holocaust. By the end of the unit, students from other 7<sup>th</sup> grade classes wanted to view the projects made by students and wanted to know more about the Holocaust.

Students in the two ITEC classes were amazed at the wealth of information that was available on the Holocaust. Students in the Language Arts class enjoyed getting to read actual letters and stories from Holocaust survivors versus reading about the information from a textbook. They also enjoyed being able to select various stories and poems and not being required to read all that was provided.

We were able to measure the students' success based on a rubric provided for their culminating project. Students were allowed to select from various choice activities. They could create a collage comparing and contrasting the world today with the time during the Holocaust, a picture book explaining the Holocaust, or could summarize children's personal stories from the Holocaust. We were also able to measure their success by reading their postings of discussion of the two texts read in Social Studies on Blackboard. (Blackboard is a Internet based program that we use that allows students to post discussions somewhat like a "chat room.")

Students were also allowed to view the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Website where they were introduced to songs and other documents that were a part of the Holocaust. Through the use of the website, students were able to view exhibits that they would normally not be able to see as they were miles away. The funds

from this grant also allowed us to purchase a new piece of technology that allowed students to manipulate the SmartBoard from their seats in order to take a virtual field trip through the museum. They were amazed at the items that survived such a horrible time in history.

As students were finishing their projects, we allowed them to create a book pass of a wide selection of additional books on the Holocaust. The book pass required students to select six books from the selection, give their title, genre, and a brief description of the book. This allowed for students to be exposed to various different types of books about the Holocaust. The impact that this had in the classroom is that students were checking out these books to read and wanted to know of other books that they could read regarding the Holocaust.

The impact that this grant has made in the Language Arts and Social Studies ITEC classrooms has been overwhelming. We were able to purchase a wide selection of texts that allows for several different perspectives of such a tragic time in history that so many children are not aware of.