

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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Library brings video to classrooms with Best Buy Grant

In classrooms across the county, kids are learning about visually exciting topics, from the elephants of Hannibal to the effects of electricity. And now, the Georgetown Library is giving classes a chance to make a movie about their favorite topics.

“We have earned a grant from the Best Buy Children’s Foundation that allows us to go into classrooms and teach tweens and teens the basics of video production,” explained Public Services librarian Heather Pelham. “Then, the kids can be reporters or actors, and bring their classroom lessons to life.”

The grant has just begun, and the library has already worked with the Georgetown Middle School Drama Club to adapt their most recent play into a video, with scenes shot on location at a store, a funeral home, a scary basement, at a basketball game, even in a car.

“The school aired the play for every classroom on their Promethean boards,” Pelham said. “It was a really technologically savvy way to let everyone see the play at the same time.”

The cameras are now in a social studies class, where students are interviewing famous historical figures of Greece, like Alexander the Great and Homer.

“We’re doing this really fun green screen effect,” Pelham said. “When the interviews are edited, the students will look like they’re sitting in front of an agora or the Parthenon.”

The classes are learning video terms and how to work with cameras, tripods, lighting, and audio equipment. They’re also getting familiar with basic editing concepts and how much you can change or enhance a script during post production.

“Our first group completed a survey, and their answers were fantastic, from noting how you can shoot out of order to differences in types of microphones,” Pelham said. “The kids truly sounded like producers.”

The grant runs nine more months, so if you know of a middle school or high school classroom whose studies would translate well to video, give Pelham a call at the library, 545-3327.