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- [BUS SCHEDULES](#)
- [CALENDARS](#)
- [PROGRAMS](#)
- [NEWS](#)
- [EMPLOYMENT](#)



## OCSD Receives \$1,250,000 Grant from the Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA)

The Okaloosa County School District has received a \$1,250,000 grant from the Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA) which will support secondary science and math curriculum and build on the best instructional practices.

Some of the initiatives of this grant include adding technology to the math and science classroom, professional development opportunities for teachers, supporting a STEM summer camp, and piloting an online tutoring program for math and science students.

The students in Angelica Jackson's 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Physical Science class at Bruner Middle School are excited about incorporating additional technology in their class curriculum. Pictured above, the students are working in small groups using an iPad to take a Quizizz, created by Sandy Thorson, Ms. Jackson's Student Intern from Northwest Florida State College, to review the concepts on the Electromagnetic Spectrum.

The students had this to say about using technology in the classroom:

Ian Humes stated, "The iPads help me in science by getting the knowledge stuck in my head."

"Technology helps me learn in science by letting me see what I know and don't know," said Hailey Rice.

"Having new technology such as our iPads have helped so much especially when studying for quizzes and tests," said Lillian Greene. "My grades have improved so much."

Alli Pike stated, "We use the iPads to do more interactive labs which engage our brains more in the classroom."

Lucas Harrell feels that "iPads help in science classes by allowing us to see demonstrations such as chemical reactions. In my class we do e-Labs to help me understand more of our natural world."

iPads are just one of the many devices the District uses as tools in the classroom to make learning more captivating and realistic.

"I can have students manipulate chemical combinations online and observe the reactions that occur," said Jackson. "It's safe and even cost effective in relation to not having to purchase all the chemicals. I've been teaching almost 30 years and teaching gets more exciting and engaging all the time, and much of that is attributed to the use of technology in the classroom!"

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