



Southeast Steuben County Library
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AMERICAN DREAM GRANT MAKES ESL, DIGITAL LITERACY TRAINING POSSIBLE

Literacy and digital literacy programming for learners of English as a Second Language (ESL) will soon begin at the Southeast Steuben County Library as a result of the American Dream Starts @ Your Library grant. The American Dream grant is funded by the Dollar General Foundation and awarded by the American Library Association (ALA) and its Office for Literacy and Outreach Services (OLOS).

The library will use the grant to purchase iPads and Windows 8 touch screen laptops as well as Microsoft Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Apple Pages and Numbers for iPad. These tools will be used during programming that will help ESL learners to improve their English while promoting digital literacy.

Programs will be offered on select Thursdays monthly from 10:30-11:30 a.m. The dates are April 25, May 23, June 27, July 25, Aug. 22, Sept. 26, Nov. 21 and Dec. 19. Each program will consist of four parts: culture, music, technology usage and question and answer time.

In addition to the structured workshops listed above, the library will also hold monthly open lab sessions for adult learners of English. Open labs will be held the second Tuesday of each month from 12:30-1:30 p.m. and 2:30-3:30 p.m. During these sessions ESL learners can get assistance with digital literacy skills by trying new hardware and software. In addition to iPads and Windows 8 PCs, learners can also try other tablet models, e-readers and Macbooks. This is also a good time to take language lessons using Mango Languages. This software was purchased through the grant and teaches English from 15 different native languages and also offers 40 other languages.

Learners should sign up for the structured workshops that are held on Tuesdays by calling (607)936-3713 ext. 503 or by emailing Linda Reimer at reimerl@stls.org. Learners are welcome to sign up for open lab days or just drop by. Participants are welcome to bring a friend or family member.

Finally, the library also offers one-on-one sessions for digital literacy assistance. Make an appointment by calling (607)936-3713 ext. 503.

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*The equipment, computers, tablets and software used in these programs was purchased via a generous grant from the Dollar General Literacy Foundation, the American Library Association (ALA) and its Office for Literacy and Outreach Services (OLOS). The grant will continue funding the American Dream Starts @ your library®, a literacy initiative for adult English language learners and their families for the next year.
The library is handicapped accessible. If you require special accommodations, please call us in advance: (607) 936-3713.*