



Dee Daniels

SUBLIMITY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
LAUREL COUNTY SCHOOLS

This grant year what "extra" honors/certificates/etc. have you earned?

- Diffit Educator Certification/Badge
- KEDC Leadership Cohort Member
- Presenter at KEDC EdTech Conference
- Other Leadership roles, in my school/district

One word you'd use to describe your grant experience so far and why?

Cultivating, this grant has been instrumental in nurturing my growth as an educator and teacher leader.

What is one strategy, tool, or mindset from this grant that has radically changed your teaching practice?

One transformative tool from this grant is Novel Effect, which has significantly enhanced my teaching as a K-1 special education teacher. It engages even the most challenging students during read-alouds and addresses their social and emotional needs. The soundscapes from Novel Effect are a hit, and the aligned resources on the app simplify lesson planning, making it one of my favorite weekly tools.

In what ways has this grant grown you as a teacher leader?

I've always had a type A personality and enjoyed leading, but participating in KEDC grants has inspired me to explore new leadership opportunities in my educational community. The motivation and encouragement from grant leaders during sessions and events have helped me grow. I've learned that true leadership involves serving others, a lesson repeatedly modeled in this grant. It has provided me with opportunities to present at various conferences and within my school, allowing me to step out of my comfort zone and improve in every leadership role.

How are you bringing grant learning back to your school or district?

As I learn strategies and tools in my grant cadre sessions and conferences, I am always excited to bring those back and put them into action in my classroom and district. I've shared the Diffit app, Novel Effect, Magic School Ai, and more with my staff. As I am doing my weekly lesson plans, I'm always adding in something that I have learned from being part of America's Promise 250.

How has this KEDC Grants experience re-energized you as an educator?

This grant makes me feel like my job is important and that what I am doing with students each day matters. The grant leadership is always positive and encouraging. The collaboration with other teachers has taught me that I'm not alone in this profession and that I have people I can count on for support in my career.

"Because of this grant, I now know that I am meant to be a leader in the education profession and that I am meant to bring out the best in my students and fellow educators."