



Student Achievement Leadership Team

Resource Kit #17

Using technology in Ohio's schools

November 2008

Ohio School Boards Association
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Dear school board members, superintendents and treasurers:

It is an exciting time to be involved in public education. There are so many new and creative programs designed to boost student achievement. This Student Achievement Leadership Team resource kit features 10 innovative programs from public schools throughout Ohio.

This kit looks at technology and how it is used in the classroom.

These programs, even though some are still in their first or second year, demonstrate how technology incorporated with the lesson plan can improve student learning.

We hope you will find ideas you can apply in your own district to raise student achievement. If you would like more details on a particular program, don't hesitate to contact one of the districts.

Edward A. Bischoff

OSBA president

member of the Delaware-Union ESC

and Delaware Area Career Center boards

Using technology in Ohio schools

Teachers throughout Ohio are creatively melding computers, video cameras, iPods, the Internet and other technologies into their classrooms. The 10 programs featured in this resource kit responded to a request from OSBA. If you have a great program that integrates technology into your classrooms and would like to share more about it, please contact Drew Clark, OSBA information services specialist, at d_clark@osba-ohio.org.

Destination Imagination

District: **Lucas Local (Richland)**
Contact: Sara Linger
Phone: (419) 892-2291
E-mail: Linger.Sara@LucasCubs.org

Program grant funded?

Yes, the Lucas Schools Sustaining Fund

How long have you had the program?

Three years

Please provide a brief overview of your program:

Destination Imagination is a creative problem-solving program. Students compete in four age categories and choose from several problems. Problems focus on a variety of fields: social service, technology, theater arts, engineering, etc.

How has your technology-rich program improved student achievement?

The Destination Imagination program has provided an outlet for a diverse group of students. The program teaches and fosters teamwork, time management and problem-solving skills.

Separated by chance, united by technology

District: **Avon Lake City**
Contact: Carl Bosworth
Phone: (440) 933-6282
E-mail: Carl.Bosworth@avonlakecityschools.org

Program grant funded?

No

How long have you had the program?

Two years

Please provide a brief overview of your program:

This project reconnected a student to his classroom during the time that he was undergoing kidney dialysis three mornings a week — 30 miles away from the classroom. He was able to interactively participate in classroom instruction with audio and video, and use the classroom interactive whiteboard in real time at the same rate as his classmates, who were in the classroom. Despite the geographical distance, this student missed a minimal amount of teacher contact time and was actually better able to get on schedule once he returned to the school for his afternoon classes.

How has your technology-rich program improved student achievement?

The student was more engaged in the instructional process. He completed his lessons at the same rate and pace as his peers. He was able to work with the large group and also was able to experience “small group, peer-to-peer” instruction, as well. His rate of assignment completion was considerably improved, as he was able to complete more of his assignments within a time frame commensurate with his peers.

Technology Integration Grants

District: **Centerville City**
Contact: Shannon Morgan
Phone: (937) 433-8841
E-mail: shannon.morgan@centerville.k12.oh.us

Program grant funded?

No

Please provide a brief overview of your program:

Challenged by all the typical factors (funding, equity and accountability), Centerville City Schools offers a Technology Integration Grant program.

Centerville's grant program is an avenue through which our classrooms have access to the latest and most appropriate instructional technology. Proposals are accepted for items from the grant catalog. The Technology Committee evaluates classroom proposals, based on relevance, rigor and accountability. It is through this process that our most inventive and motivated teachers test new ideas and establish pilots for larger initiatives. Grant proposals are expected to align with the district's continuous improvement plan and other instructional initiatives at the building, department or grade level.

How has your technology-rich program improved student achievement?

Centerville City Schools has earned the "Excellent" rating for 10 consecutive years. Our Technology Integration Plan and Grant programs support the high levels of achievement that our district enjoys.

District leadership is pleased with the influence, enthusiasm and motivation attributed to the technology grants. Sparked by this process, new partnerships and professional learning are taking place. We continue to receive proposals that demonstrate teachers are collaborating, sharing and discussing best practices.

Students are engaged when using technology to contextualize learning in a way that aligns with the world they live in. Technology is providing seamless options for students to demonstrate what they learn. Instructors are using technology as a tool to individualize and differentiate instruction to improve student achievement.

IT's for Girls

District: **Cuyahoga Valley Career Center**

Contact: Patricia Coyne

Phone: (440) 746-8233

E-mail: pcoyne@cvccworks.com

Program grant funded?

Yes. Several local IT organizations fund the program.

How long have you had the program?

One year

Please provide a brief overview of your program:

In conjunction with the WE ARE IT campaign, this program provides middle school girls with information and incentive to pursue their interests in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM)-related subjects and IT careers.

Middle school girls, who have an interest in and a propensity for IT and other STEM-related subjects, spend the day discovering how much fun IT is. They complete a variety of interactive technology-related activities as they rotate through four programs at Cuyahoga Valley Career Center (programming/software development, Computer Networking Academy, computer-aided design and academic math). IT professionals join the girls for lunch and present information about their careers.

How has your technology-rich program improved student achievement?

For the high school students who are developing and implementing the program activities, student achievement has been improved because they are finding creative ways to teach what they are learning in technology — using software and activities to demonstrate higher-level problem-solving. In the process, they are becoming passionate about passing on their love of IT.

For the middle school girls, we anticipate that their achievement in STEM classes will improve as their knowledge about how important these classes are to their future success increases. As their confidence in STEM subjects increases, so should their interest in pursuing higher-level courses.

The middle school girls take a pre- and post-survey so we can assess how the program has changed their understanding of IT and their perspective on what they need to be successful.

Alternative class

District: **Marion City**
Contact: Sandy Borland
Phone: (740) 223-4556
E-mail: sandy_borland@marioncity.k12.oh.us`

Program grant funded?

No

How long have you had the program?

One year

Please provide a brief overview of your program:

The alternative class is for students who have been unsuccessful in traditional school and have exhibited poor behavior, as well as a lack of work. These students would be likely dropouts.

The teacher works with the students on behavior and life skills. Students learn their curriculum through virtual learning. Outside agencies such as Big Brothers/Big Sisters work with the students.

The program began in January 2008. Students are applying themselves to learning. Although the program is small, with a maximum of 15 students in the room, there is some evidence of early success.

How has your technology-rich program improved student achievement?

Technology provides an alternative learning environment to provide a rich curriculum.

Wikis, blogs and podcasts in an academic classroom

District: **Pioneer Career & Technology Center**

Contact: Karrie Brown

Phone: (419) 347-7744

E-mail: brown.karrie@pctc.k12.oh.us

Program grant funded?

No

How long have you had the program?

Three years

Please provide a brief overview of your program:

Read 180 is an intensive reading program that helps educators meet the needs of struggling readers. The program directly addresses individual needs through differentiated instruction, adaptive and instructional software, high-interest literature, and direct instruction in reading, writing and vocabulary skills. Many of the same concepts from the Read 180 program are used in English 11 classes. Technology is imbedded into every component of the English classes. The entire class is run through a wiki space. The class also blogs and creates individual podcasts through their own podcasting sites.

How has your technology-rich program improved student achievement?

A classroom blog is set up on Wikispaces.com and the students post their writing assignments on the blog. They also comment on their classmates' work and the class lessons.

What makes the wiki site so appealing is that it has a social networking component like Facebook and MySpace. This really connects everyone and creates an amazing classroom dynamic. Since individual assignments are posted for all to see, the students are more careful and self-conscientious about the quality of their work. The students turn all of their speeches into a podcast by using a free podcasting site. Like Read 180, the wiki site and podcasting make the learning fun and interesting. But the key is that it belongs to the students. They have pride and ownership of their individual pages and the entire wiki.

Social networking — the safe way

District: **Upper Sandusky EV**
Contact: Jim Frye
Phone: (419) 294-2396
E-mail: jim_f@treca.org

Program grant funded?

No

How long have you had the program?

One year

Please provide a brief overview of your program:

Knowing that social networking is a huge part of the high school culture (i.e. MySpace, Facebook, etc.), we wanted to explore this locally, but in a safe, secure way. Saywire, based in Fountain Hills, Ariz., provides such a tool.

How has your technology-rich program improved student achievement?

This is yet to be assessed, as we are early in the implementation. The hope is that with increased communications and connectivity between students and staff, overall student performance will rise.

Student Notebook Access Program

District: **Miami Valley Career Technology Center**
Contact: Randy Schmidt
Phone: (937) 837-7781
E-mail: rschmidt@mvctc.com

Program grant funded?

No

How long have you had the program?

Eight years

Please provide a brief overview of your program:

Educators, students and parents generally agree that learning occurs most effectively when students are presented with a variety of learning options. In our secondary classrooms, opportunities for creativity, higher-level problem solving and hands-on experience need to occur. We believe that technology may be one of the best learning tools available to meet these needs. Our experience proves that, handled properly, the computer can be an effective catalyst and tool for learning in the classroom and at home. We believe the Student Notebook Access Program (SN@P) is the next necessary step toward educating our students for life in the 21st century.

Technology is a tool which, when used properly, will enhance learning in ways that could not be imagined a few years ago. Our philosophy is "that the curriculum should direct the technology, not the other way around."

How has your technology-rich program improved student achievement?

Instructors using technology to enhance learning want to know whether digital technology is educationally effective. Their question is not whether students like digital technology or are engaged by it, but instead whether it enhances student learning outcomes.

A study by Zemelman, Daniels and Hyde in 1998 showed that students learn best when teaching and learning are student-centered, experiential, authentic, collaborative, social, challenging, developmentally appropriate and democratic. Their findings are consistent with the more general research summarized by the National Research Council in "How People Learn" (2002). The Miami Valley Career Technology Center believes the Student Notebook Access Program gives the instructor the best chance to accomplish these findings.

Spanish II, III, IV

District: **Pioneer Career & Technology Center**
Contact: Melinda Shaum
Phone: (419) 347-7744
E-mail: shaum.melinda@pctc.k12.oh.us

Program grant funded?

No

How long have you had the program?

One year

Please provide a brief overview of your program:

Podcasts work in tandem with the class wiki space to extend student learning, enhance class discussions and stimulate connections for students enrolled in Spanish II, III and IV.

How has your technology-rich program improved student achievement?

Using both the podcasts and the wiki space, the students enjoy writing in Spanish and are writing more than in past years. They also enjoy that current technology is used to transmit the information to them. The students are able to listen to or download the podcasts so they can continue listening beyond the classroom. This is resulting in higher levels of listening comprehension abilities. Students also are able to work on assignments and listen to or download from the wiki space to their home computer, which allows those who are absent to stay current with material covered in class. Podcasts also are found in the iTunes store and can be downloaded at no charge to accommodate dial-up Internet connections.

POINTS! classroom technology initiative

District: **Copley-Fairlawn City**
Contact: Lance Green
Phone: (330) 664-4822
E-mail: lance.green@copley-fairlawn.org

Program grant funded?

No

How long have you had the program?

One year

Please provide a brief overview of your program:

The POINTS! classroom technology initiative is based upon the concept of strengthening the educational environment by providing both modern classroom instructional technology equipment and corresponding technology professional development in a flexible, effective and sustainable manner. As part of the initiative, each teacher has the opportunity to redeem a predetermined number of points for a wide variety of classroom technology equipment. Each classroom technology item has an associated professional development requirement the teacher also must agree to complete.

How has your technology-rich program improved student achievement?

Copley-Fairlawn City School District is very optimistic that student achievement will be improved by equipping our classrooms with modern and engaging educational technology equipment and resources. While the program may not be able to provide quantifiable data on student achievement, we will be conducting a program evaluation at the end of this school year and we expect to yield very positive qualitative data.

Internet resources

The Internet has many resources with information on integrating technology in the classroom. Here is a short list of popular Web sites to help you start using technology in your schools:

4Teachers.org
www.4teachers.org

Apple Learning Interchange Resources
<http://ali.apple.com/edres>

Awesome Library
www.awesomelibrary.org

Educational Technology for Engaged Learning and for Literacy
www.fno.org

Education and Computer Connection Newsletter
www.nvo.com/ecnewsletter

EducatorsKonnnect
www.educatorskonnnect.com

Edutopia: What Works in Public Education
www.edutopia.org

eTech Ohio
www.etech.ohio.gov/resources/index.jsp

Integrating Literacy and Technology into the Curriculum
www.reading.org/resources/issues/positions_technology.html

Internet4Classrooms
www.internet4classrooms.com

Literacy in the Information Age
http://dmoz.org/Society/Issues/Education/Literacy/Information_Literacy

Literacy and Technology Resources
<http://campus.fortunecity.com/newton/40/home.html>

McRel — Mid-continent Research for Education and Technology
www.mcrel.org/topics/EducationalTechnology

PBS Teachers — Technology Integration
www.pbs.org/teachers/librarymedia/tech-integration/index.html

Planning a Telecollaborative Project
<http://telecollaborate.net/education/eddevelop.html>

School Administrators' Technology Integration Resource
www.2learn.ca/satirritas/satirmain.html

Technology Tips for Classroom Educators
www.edzone.net/~mwestern

TELUS Learning Connection
www.2learn.ca/mapset/mapset.asp

Using Technology in the Classroom: Constructivist Strategies and Paths
<http://mrkay.org/prof/TechStrat.html>

Ways to Integrate Technology in Your Classrooms
<http://ursamajor.hartnet.org/chow/integrate/index.htm>

What are Webquests?
<http://projects.edtech.sandi.net/staffdev/inservice>