

Putting the TriBeam/ Assessa combination to the test

A combination of personal handheld computers, a TriBeam IR50 Broadcast System and Assessa Desktop software enables easy quiz creation, testing and immediate scoring for Ken Sajdak and his twelfth grade economics students at Waukesha South High School in Waukesha, Wisconsin.

Streamlining testing and evaluation for teachers

Sajdak had already been using TriBeam's IR50 Broadcast System for controlled Web browsing and distribution of class assignments from his PC to his students. Working closely with Assessa software developers, Sajdak had the opportunity to try out the testing and assessment capabilities offered by Assessa Desktop along with the two-way communication capabilities of the TriBeam device. Having previously utilized *Quizzler* (from Pocket Mobility, Inc.) as a testing mechanism, Sajdak felt it had a number of weaknesses and it did not provide functionality for distributing, collecting, and analyzing student tests. He was eager to beta-test a

"You have a winner! And the technology you have implemented has GREAT possibilities beyond the assessment package."

- Ken Sajdak

different set of technologies. After using Assessa and TriBeam to create, distribute, collect and grade the final exam for five of his economics

classes last spring, Sajdak was very pleased with the results.

Using this system, Sajdak can create a quiz and transmit it to the students in a matter of seconds. Assessa Desktop offers a simple "what you see is what you get" test creator format. In addition, the software helps Sajdak to align his testing to state standards, ensuring he is following *No Child Left Behind* guidelines. The TriBeam Broadcast System then transmits the quiz to all of the students at one time, using an infrared connection.

Students love it

After Sajdak has developed a quiz, he beams it to the

entire class, and the kids are off and running, reading the questions on-screen and inputting their responses directly into their Palm handhelds. Unlike *Quizzler*, which automatically advances students to the next question, the Assessa Desktop software enables kids to answer at their own pace, and to review to be sure they have provided the correct

"My students feel that the Assessa and TriBeam testing solution is better than a ScanTron test for ease of answering."

-Ken Sajdak

response for each question. Students' answers are then beamed back to Sajdak's computer utilizing the TriBeam device. Again, the Assessa software streamlines the testing process, immediately scoring the quizzes and providing the teacher with instant information about his students' performance



Students respond to test

questions using the combination of a Palm handheld, Assessa Desktop software, and TriBeam beaming technology.

Students love taking tests on their handhelds, and are happy to receive almost immediate feedback on their performance. Sajdak has found a solution that actually generates excitement about tests and quizzes!

Looking toward the future

Based upon the success that Ken Sajdak has had with the TriBeam and Assessa solutions, he is eager to work with both TriBeam and EyeCues, the maker of Assessa software, to test and research other technologies that will further enhance learning in a traditional classroom setting.