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Green Middle School



School or Educational System
Green Middle School
Green, Ohio

Grade Level
Grades 6-8

Challenge

Provide affordable technology to more students in overcrowded conditions.

Solution

- Palm™ handheld computers and keyboards
- Applications: Palm ToDo List®, Date Book®, TriBeam Technologies WebTarget™, Infinity Softwork's powerOne™ Graph, Pocket Express's dbNow™, Scantron's Classroom Wizard®, Blue Nomad's WordSmith®, Imagiworks ImagiProbe®, Cutting Edge Software's QuickSheet®, Vernier™ sensors, Hi-CE FlingIt®

Benefits

- Provides affordable technology solution for overcrowded school.
- Offers individual access to anytime,

Palm™ Handhelds Bridge Digital Divide

"You can buy wireless laptops for \$2000 or Palm™ hand for \$200. Where's the dilemma?" asks Paula Jameson, te resource teacher for Green Middle School in Green, Ohio students are able to do everything on handhelds-which i considering we have no place for a computer lab."

Challenge

Jameson's district, Green Local Schools, has been facing issues: overcrowding and the digital divide. The small ar community of Green, Ohio has become one of the places are moving there and creating a new suburban commun of Akron.

The middle school was built to accommodate 700 studer currently enroll 1029 and expect 30-40 new students on of school in the fall.

"We're not sure where we'll put them," says Jameson. "\ had three classes going on all day in the cafeteria and o trailers get packed to capacity."

A disparity in incomes has created an economic and digi of the district's goals has been to eliminate this divide ar found Palm handheld computers to be the affordable ans

Palm™ Handheld Solution

"Palm handheld computers have helped us to conquer b says Jameson. "We now have six mobile handheld labs, 30 sets of Palm handhelds with keyboards and educatio that teachers check out for different projects. Our schoo successful with this program, the district is adopting har elementary and high schools."

Since Green Middle School is not a wealthy school, they' many of the handhelds, along with peripherals and softw various grants, including a [Palm Education Pioneer](#) grant

Superintendent John Goldsberry has supported the purcl handhelds from the start and has participated in Jameso Palm handheld technology. Principal Russell Chaboudy h to see what handhelds could do. He proposed that teach six hours of class with Jameson and wrote and taught a handhelds would receive a handheld of their own. Thirty fifty teachers have participated so far.

"Our staff has embraced the handhelds and use them fo and off campus," claims Jameson. "They voted the Palm the most valued technology last year."

Several products are being used throughout the school i with the handhelds. They use TriBeam's WebTarget wire technology to deliver Internet access to all students usir handhelds. The application dbNow helps students to org;

anywhere learning for all students.

- Creates environment for collaborative, inquiry-based learning.
- Supports middle school educational philosophy.

"You can buy wireless laptops for \$2000 or Palm™ handheld computers for \$200. Where's the dilemma?"

Paula Jameson
Green Middle School

in a quick, easy, and precise manner. With Classroom Wizard no longer need to carry paper and pencil with them when exploring the world outside the walls of their classroom. to carry their worksheets created by their teachers in their computers.

Teachers and students are using the handhelds in all areas of the curriculum. In language arts, students use the handheld keyboards and WordSmith to write essays, respond to questions, and create journal entries. An eighth grade advanced math class used a study of shadows to predict time of day. They used Palm with powerOne graphing calculators, QuickSheet spreadsheet, and Classroom Wizard worksheet applications.

Science classes use any of the 50 Vernier probes that were purchased to conduct experiments. Seventh grade science students attached probes to the handhelds and along with ImageFusion and QuickSheet they were able to measure pH, dissolved oxygen, temperature, and turbidity during their annual pond study. They documented their findings with digital cameras that they connected directly to their handhelds.

A special education class has used the handhelds for a social studies unit on the Inca, trying to eat out to better understand a practical application of the Inca in a real-life situation. For a social studies unit on the Inca Civilization, students used FlingIt to transfer research data to the handheld Web, and then created a brochure on a specific city along with supporting a theory about the disappearance of the Inca. Seventh graders in a business education class researched the salaries needed to cover basic living expenses and the level of education needed to earn those salaries. Many of them began to set educational goals as a result.

Benefits

"The handheld labs have allowed us to give our students access to anytime, anywhere state-of-the-art learning," says Jameson. "We believe that handheld computers are as efficient as laptop computers at one tenth the price. They are the answer to the digital divide."

They've found that integration of handhelds into the school curriculum supports their textbook-classic middle school curriculum that includes a focus on the child, small learning teams, flexible schedules, and inquiry-based learning.

"Students are able to first work independently and then on projects in all areas of the curriculum," says Jameson. "The handhelds also provide one-on-one assisted technology education for students."

The students are also learning responsibility as they care for the handhelds and to take good care of them.

"At the end of the school year, I'd tease the kids and ask 'What's more important, the child or the Palm handheld?' They would say the child. The child can be replaced since you can get a new one next year, but you may not be able to get a new Palm handheld."

Jameson has become quite a resource when her teacher asks for information on software programs. A database she keeps on her handheld has information on 427 handheld applications. She has presented at the Ohio SchoolNet Conference, the National Education Computing Conference (NECC) and the National Middle School Conference as well as to many other districts wanting to learn about handheld education.

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