



NetOp Tech Partnership Program Collier County Schools Case Study

NETOP SCHOOL GETS TEACHERS TALKING AND STUDENTS LEARNING

Danware's NetOp School has instructors in the Collier County School District excited about using the latest teaching methods in technology classrooms. Instructors are clamoring to get their hands on the new software, which helps keep students on task, easily demonstrates concepts to an entire class and actively involves students in the learning process.

Technology instructors have long struggled to compete with the very tool they use to teach students: the computer. Using a computer means that distractions from schoolwork are easily accessible and to the already highly unfocused teenage minds in high school classrooms, the temptation is only magnified.

When the Collier County School District decided to do something about this problem they turned to NetOp School. The software works by placing images of each student's screen on the instructor's screen, giving the instructor a quick look at what each student is doing on their computer at any one time. If someone is wandering off task and spending time browsing the Internet, playing online games or using chat rooms, the instructor can send an instant message to get the student back on task. A message will pop up on the student's monitor, but if they continue to resist the warning, the instructor has the ability to take control of all functions of the student's computer and can block the Web browser, shut down certain programs or even freeze the entire computer.

The software is also used as an effective teaching tool. Not only is the student's screen activity placed on the instructor's computer, the instructor's screen can also be placed on each student computer. This makes demonstrations markedly easier because students can follow along on their own workspace at the same time the lesson is being demonstrated, instead of viewing a presentation then returning to their desk to complete the assignment on their own. Actively getting students involved in the instruction also helps them stay on task and teachers can use instant messaging to send private help messages to students struggling to overcome certain concepts. If a student displays proficiency or has found a new way to solve a problem, that student's screen can be projected to the class in place of the teacher screen and they can show off a new technique or approach to solving the problem.

NetOp School's teaching solution is making a big impression at the Collier County School District, where 52 teachers and 1,200 students are using the software. The software has become such a success that district technology analyst, John Antonacci, has to contend with instructors asking for the product: "More and more teachers are requesting NetOp School installations everyday," said Antonacci. "Teachers will see their colleagues using a blocking a feature or how easy it is for the teacher to demonstrate a particular point and then they will come find me and say, 'Hey I want that!'"

The Collier County School District graduated over 2,500 students in May 2007 with 98 Laureate graduates. The high standard of achievement signifies the district's commitment to a high quality educational environment and the use of NetOp School emphasizes this further. The district has expanded the use of the software from computer labs to media centers, classroom settings and even in an alternative school, with educates students with discipline problems.

NetOp School, version 5.0, also has added features that have quickly become popular: "The teachers have found that their favorite aspect of NetOp School Version 5.0 is the quiz feature," said Antonacci. "They can quickly create a quiz on material the class has just learned and distribute it to each computer in the classroom. Just as easily, they get the quiz back and can grade it."

The software also gives teachers the option of working on lesson plans and class projects at home. They don't even need to have NetOp School installed on their home computer.

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