

Case Study
by
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Technology Integration
On behalf of the students and staff of
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I remember walking down the aisle of the exhibits area at a technology conference last spring and thinking to myself, "Great, another Smart Board display where they won't be able to answer my questions!" As it turns out, I was twice blessed that day. Not only did I discover an interactive white board unlike the rest, but also the software that I had been looking for to go with that board. Needing to validate my opinion that IPM and RM Easiteach would be perfect for our district, I was able to do so not long afterward when we arranged for a demonstration at a local chapter meeting of computer educators. I was able to convince two of my colleagues to attend the meeting with me anxious to see what their reaction would be. When it came time to leave after the meeting and I had to physically remove my colleagues so the presenter could go home, I knew I had made the right choice!

Since that time we've never looked back! With the aide of my colleagues, I was able to convince our administration that RM Easiteach was what we needed in our classrooms when school started this past fall. With help from a grant, we have installed RM Easiteach in twenty-seven of our district classrooms and are planning to install more as soon as we are able. The RM Easiteach sessions at our local education conference were packed and standing-room only with an extra session added to handle the crowd. We have received calls from area schools asking about RM Easiteach prompting several of our teachers to sign up as RM Easiteach presenters for next fall's annual conference.

When discussing RM Easiteach with other educators, I am frequently asked if it is user friendly. Surprisingly, that's the same question I could never seem to get an answer to about the accompanying software from the people with a Smarter solution! Usually I let my colleagues answer that one! One will tell you that once she showed her class how to use it, she hasn't had a chance to use it since!

Referring to the daily use of RM Easiteach software as a means of integrating technology into our curriculum, Karla a fifth grade teacher says, "I see the same changes in the other classrooms. Everyday, I look around the wall or walk through the other classrooms to see what they are doing. We work together to develop lessons and utilize the new technology. If one of us finds something new, we are excited to share that with the others. If one of has a question, we find another who has the answer."

Fifth grade teacher Jodi agrees, "We seem to be gaining info from each other. If one teacher comes up with a good lesson she can't wait to share it with the other grant teachers. I see the students are more engaged. I also think they are giving more examples for the students to practice under our supervision."

I have witnessed our teachers at educational meetings and conferences sharing how wonderful RM Easiteach is with laptop demonstrations for strangers from other school districts. One teacher accompanying me to a conference demonstrated on her laptop for another teacher during a four hour drive home! I ran into a teacher from another building recently who was borrowing a laptop with RM Easiteach installed. She spent the entire time exploring the world of RM Easiteach and then asked me what I thought it would take for her to get this in her classroom.

The students in our building love it! Recently we have hosted a school wide Jeopardy Math Tournament to prepare for our state test; used the voting feature to determine our new school mascot; and even learned

about probability and chance by casting a guess as to whether one of our expectant teachers was having a boy or a girl! A third grade teacher shared with me recently that one of her students had asked when it was going to be his turn to *'rehydrate the board?'*

District teachers love how easy it is to convert their math and reading lessons with RM Easiteach. Schools in our district have begun setting up portfolios on their shared drives to help accommodate all of the RM Easiteach lessons and artifacts that they are creating for our teachers to use. Katie, one of our fourth grade teachers swears "My students reading test scores have improved on the vocabulary portion because of my effort to have some vocabulary activity each day using RM Easiteach."

Katie will also tell you that with RM Easiteach, it's easy to teach... "I feel that I am more organized and cover more topics thoroughly. I also feel that we do more activities that help the kids see what I am talking about. I feel I am now using the approach that "a picture is worth a thousand words".

Everyday I am thankful that I decided to go ahead and walk down that aisle!

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