

Testimonials emailed to Debbie McGuire regarding the Technology Grant that VPEF received from the Buck Foundation.

Hi Debbie,

Here is what I received from e-mail in just the last 15 minutes across the district. As you can see, the use of digital projectors, document cameras, and other sources of technology has a huge impact on how teachers deliver educational instruction throughout the district.

Jim Wasielewski - VUSD Technology

Hi Jim,

I am a happy camper with my new smart board, accompanied by my projector. As a teacher of second language learners, the instant access to multi media has tremendously enhanced my ability to deliver instruction on complex concepts in a way that all my students are able to understand. I don't know how I survived without it.

Mike Milligan-Markham

I use the projector to show selected lesson introductions from the Pearson math series (4th grade). I also show curriculum related science topics from Brain Pop.

Stuart Russell, 4th grade-Alamo

Hi Jim,

My digital projector has transformed my classroom learning environment! It helps me connect the real world and student's experiences to the concepts I am trying to get across. It enables me to teach my students how to use technology. I can edit notes for my students "on the fly" and show example student work in a more effective multi-media PowerPoint format. I could go on and on!

Katie Norton-Will C. Wood

I use my digital projector every single day to introduce my Pearson math lesson. It is a great way to get my students' attention...an animated start on a big screen grabs them and they are instantly engaged!

Marlene Carlson, 4th grade classroom teacher – Hemlock School

I like using the projector for so many reasons. Here are a few: if we're reading nonfiction texts in another subject area, I can call up information using BrainPop or EduStop1 for a visual explanation of something that is outside of my discipline (yesterday it was supernovas); BrainPop is great for introducing a topic or reviewing one; and the projector is also a great tool for writing notes or demonstrating problems, etc. instead of using the board. You can also use it to project DVDs on the big screen, provided your speakers are powerful enough. *Christine Williams-Jepson*

- I use technology in my classroom every day with great success.
- Technology I use: A dual monitor set up. (one monitor displays student material, one is just for me (attendance, research, internet)) A digital projector. Surround Sound stereo.
- I use the technology in the following ways:
 1. Microsoft PowerPoint
 - a. I lecture a little almost every day.
 - b. The Slideshow is projected onto a screen using a digital projector.
 - i. This allows for even students with visual impairments to see what is on the screen.
 - c. I use 1-2 minute video clips between text slides to convey the material in a dynamic way.
 - i. I get this video and audio material from United Streaming through the gateway.
 2. Student Presentations – students present using a wireless remote and the same PowerPoint set up.
 3. I show documentaries and board approved history movies on the screen with the surround sound.
 - a. For the students it's like being in a movie theater and they seem to really enjoy watching this way. It helps keep them engaged.
 4. Dual Monitor: this allows me to control what the students see, and to be able to work while media is being displayed on the other monitor.
- Next step should be: smart boards.

Jared Ropelato-WCW

Having a digital projector in my room along with a SmartBoard has allowed me to offer an outstanding math and language arts enrichment program to students in grades 1-6 at Eugene Padan Elementary School for the past 8 years. Students are able to see and understand lesson content, and then refer back to lesson content as they go to their computers for independent practice.

Technology has enabled me to teach to our students' predominant visual learning style. I find the visual model that technology provides me makes the learning stick in long term memory and hence, mastery of the standards that I am teaching.

Gary Eisenberg, Padan Elementary

I love my new camera, my laptop, and the projector! They are fantastic teaching tools. And every new thing I'm learning about them is very exciting. Thank you, thank you, thank you for bringing this newer technology into my classroom!

Kathy Barton-Cooper

My class has been using the digital projectors for lots of activities, but especially editing of writing. I can put a student's work under the camera through the projector and everyone can help edit. Students are excited to rework their writing because the

suggestions are coming from their peers. It is also great for venn diagrams and note taking.

Kathleen Clark-Browns Valley

Our new math program, Pearson, has the digital learning bridge that brings the examples to the students in the media they are used to these days, video animations. I use the digital projector to show these to the class as a whole on the large screen. We use the variety of BrainPop mini lessons to reinforce the curriculum and to supplement lessons that we don't have time for in the regular academic day.

Many of us have taken classes to learn how to make Power Points. I assigned a Power Point lesson for each of my sixth grade students to create and show the class what they learned from their Ancient Civilization studies. We make Power Points to clarify lessons.

We use the projectors for work assignments, lessening the need to run 34 paper copies for each student.

Rita Erwin-Hemlock

My digital projector has been enormously helpful in teaching the English Learners U.S. History. I have been able to create power point presentations that incorporate major concepts and images that help them overcome their language limitations while learning standard objectives. I can then put these presentations on School Loop and they can access them if they need to go back and review or were absent. I am very grateful for the projector and I don't know how I ever taught without it!

Cathy Niederkorn-VHS

I have been presenting my anatomy material in a multimedia setting for years now, if I lost my projector I don't know how I would present the material. The use of video, powerpoints, current video from the internet on techniques and approaches to medicine bring anatomy alive.

Tom Kutz VHS Anatomy Physiology/Life Science/Academic Decathlon

The digital projector has been great in my newcomer class for non-English speaking students because I have been able to locate pictures of unknown vocabulary or concepts and display it to my whole class. This allows me to explain many concepts visually when words do not work. It has allowed me to literally have images of the world at my fingertips.

Susan Lloyd – Padan

I simply could not teach without a digital projector. I have no use of my hands and can not write on a board. In conjunction with a PC and power point, my digital projector not only enables me to teach, but puts me on a better position to more effectively teach than those that teach without one....*AJ Minnick, Spanish Teacher at Vaca High*

My overhead projector is truly a wonderful tool. I have access to all parts of the new math adoption on computer and I can present to the whole class video tutorials on any subject I teach. This gives the kids another voice teaching the same material and provides a very labor efficient way of presenting material a second time. My favorite way of using my overhead is with a program called Green Globes. Green Globes allows me to input an equation and have it graphed on the screen. The whole class can participate in suggesting ways to change the equation and predicting how these changes will change the graph. Through the use of this tool, slope and y-intercept become understandable concepts very quickly.

Kirk Parrott-Jepson

I am able to use my digital projector for Power Point presentations, for quick test review games, for segments of the History Channel that are appropriate to the standards for U.S. History, and for excerpts for my psychology class. Seeing these on a large screen makes much more of an impact on students. I'm learning to use sound and motion with my presentations, so I'm almost up with my students!

Carolynn Ranch, Will C. Wood

Having a projector in my class has been wonderful! With my English 10P students, I've been able to instruct students on the writing process. We've also used it to prepare for the CAHSEE (exit exam) by using www.studyisland.com <<http://www.studyisland.com/>> and answering questions. My ELD 1 students have also benefited from the projector because I show them short clips from discovery streaming to explain concepts or enhance vocabulary. Integrating the projector and technology into my lesson plans has greatly increased student learning.

Sarah Lyle, English and ELD teacher, Vacaville High School

The digital projectors enabled us to purchase 11 Smart Boards for our campus (since we didn't have to pay for the projectors as well). The Smart Boards have made a HUGE difference in our teaching style and climate at Callison.

Tari Makowski-Callison

For back to school night this year I took pictures of people coming for the group meeting in the quad. I downloaded the pictures, made a slide show with music and showed it to all my parents a few minutes later using my digital projector. It was really no big deal but the parents were very surprised. Many, however, were too young to remember the music—the theme song from Welcome Back Kotter.

Steve Cuckovich-WCW

I use my projector daily in my Algebra 1 classes. Students can view and check homework answers, do warm up problems, view text book tutorials, and watch subject related videos. We also are able to watch power points as a whole class.

Steve Clark-Jepson

The ability to show and manipulate objects for the entire class to see is priceless. Demonstrating concepts such as surface area and nets of three dimensional polyhedrons becomes much easier and less time consuming.

Anthony Woo-VUSD Special Ed

Of course I use my SmartBoard every day...all day, and my students are always on it. It was really exciting when I used it during a parent presentation and my parents said, "Did you just write on that? How did you do that? Do my children do that during class? I need one of these at work!" When I was done with my presentation and asked for questions, a few parents came up and wrote down information on how to be interactive at work!

Mary Dwelle-Callison

Just used my digital projector FIVE MINUTES ago . . . wrapping up our study of Ancient Greece. J We just did a Brain Pop on Athens; my students can now outline the philosophy of Pericles and the Athenians, define an agora, detail the Golden Age, and describe the festival of Dionysus! The digital projector allows me to present this information in a clear, interesting, and fun way! Thanks Buck Grant and those who work to provide our classrooms with technology!

Susan Lucas, Alamo Elementary

I teach the 4-6 Special Day Class at Padan Elementary School. We received a digital projector over the summer and I have used it nearly everyday since! This projector has given my students the opportunity to learn and see things that they may never get to experience in their lives! We have taken visual tours of the White House during elections and the State Capital, and I am able to share interactive websites attached to our curriculum to enhance the learning experience! It has also helped conserve paper in the classroom because I have been able to visually show students items that I previously would have needed to run copies of!

Thanks to all that made this projector happen for my class and my students!

Sincerely, Sissy Keck, Padan Elementary School, 4-6 SDC Teacher

My digital projector has made a HUGE difference in the classroom. Now, if we have a question about something we are reading all we have to do is look it up on the computer and show it on the screen. Our question is answered instantly! A few examples...while reading Charlotte's Web, we wondered if daddy long legs are spiders. A quick internet search gave us the answer and we got to see pictures as well!

I have a wonder jar in my classroom, where students write questions they are wondering about on a slip of paper and put them in a jar. When we have a few extra minutes we pull one out and answer it, using the internet and projector. One person wondered, "Where

does Mrs. Hewett live?" So, I showed them Google Earth and Google maps and we could see my house! They were amazed.

Not only does the projector enhance curriculum, but it enables me to teach about the computer and technology as well. Just think what I could do with a document camera!!

Kristin Hewett, Hemlock

My English 10 Support class used Study Island to prep for the CAHSEE. 78% (14/18) of my support students passed on the first try!

I used the digital projector every day for warm ups (SAT Question of the Day) as well as for grammar and lesson plans. I have saved hours of time and effort being able to use the digital projector versus writing things on the board. The digital projector also makes it easy to put multiple assignments on the board for students as well as quizzes and assignments. The overhead is also great for my students with vision problems because I can enlarge what they see on the screen in just a few clicks! Students love the digital projectors when I have to bring up images from the internet! To be able to see things in color and on demand adds to the learning experience (and this includes streaming video)!

Desiree Nothstine-Vacaville High School

I have found that using PowerPoint presentations on the projector for my Business Math students has grabbed their attention during class time for notes, examples, and for a better understanding of the material. It has benefited my self as a teacher and my students as learners using the projector in class. I am able to implement brief video clips from teacher tube which draws their attention to the material or objective being taught and learned that day. My students need a lot of motivation like other students and they are used to technology so this is one more way for me to reach them!

Thank you,

Andrea Painter-Kamman, Vacaville High School, Computer Tech. & Business Math, Varsity Girls Basketball Coach and Varsity Badminton Coach.

The digital projector was great during review/preparation for Cahsee and CST. The pages of released questions were immediately accessible, and available at a few seconds notice - without running off reams of photocopies.

Joy Holleran-Will C. Wood

In Señora Gittings's Spanish classes at Vacaville High School students have seen a big change in how verb tenses and vocabulary are presented. LCD projected PowerPoint presentations by the teacher show the verb endings disappearing and new endings and accents flying in with a fun sound that grabs students' attention and helps them remember. During November's Day of the Dead activities in Spanish class, students created their own PowerPoint presentations and dazzled the class with bright projected images of cemeteries lit up at night in Mexico. On Cinco de Mayo, Señora Gittings paired the LCD projector with an Elmo Document Camera and did a "cooking show"-style presentation for her excited students. She made guacamole in a special black stone

bowl called a molcajete with avocados that students had brought in that day. Students are highly focused on any 8 foot by 8 foot lesson presented via LCD projector!

Jana Gittings Spanish Teacher at Vaca High