

TLC Letters, Martin County, March 20

By reader submitted

Friday, March 19, 2010

Anderson students enjoy new testing system

On behalf of the seventh- and- eighth-grade students and teachers at David L. Anderson Middle School, I would like to thank the Education Foundation of Martin County and its donors for their grant award to purchase a Classroom Performance System (CPS) for each grade level.

On test days, using these hand-held transponders, remarks of "Oh no we have a test" have been replaced by "Great! We get to use the clickers today." One of oursevent-grade teachers told me his students were so disappointed to being given a paper test, that he gave them a quiz on the clickers the following day.

With the CPS from eInstruction, test questions are projected onto a screen and students click in their response. When all students have answered, a graph of responses appears on the screen and the instructor has the option of showing the correct answer. The first time I used this option at Anderson, my entire classroom stood up and shouted "Oh yeah!" when they saw the 100 percent correct. Who could have predicted that the rock-cycle would be so exciting. And the system interfaces with EXAMVIEW, the test generator compatible with the Holt textbook we are using in our Integrated Science Course, as well as a question bank we purchased called the Florida Learning Series with over 1,800 questions aligned with the Florida Sunshine State Standards.

My eighth-grade students are very proud of our "green" alternative to testing. I am giving every third assessment completely paperless. On longer exams with a class set of test booklets and the arrow functions on the clickers, each student can be on different questions, backtrack and change responses or skip forward to questions they have more confidence in. Then, instead of turning in a bunch of bubbled-in answer sheets, the test is digitally scored by the end of the period, and ready for statistical analyses. One student in my first period class exclaimed, "Ms. V ... we should do the FCAT like this. We would save so much paper." (Not to mention all the laptops many school systems have purchased for online testing.)

A quote from one of my eighth-period students says it best: "I love this class. We have the best technology!"

Thank you Education Foundation for making learning fun.

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