RM CASE STUDY

Product: RM Easiteach
School District: Milan Area Schools, Milan, MI

RM Easiteach has the 'Write' Stuff

Passionate educator, Presidential Award winner and budding astronaut Cindy Hasselbring explains how RM Easiteach has transformed math instruction within her classroom at Milan High School.

When you walk into Cindy Hasselbring's math class at Milan High School in Michigan, you get a sense that she is truly on a mission. It's definitely not your typical math class: her chalkboard has been replaced with an interactive whiteboard, with RM Easiteach at the core of her teaching palate. She is wired and ready to go with her bag of tricks to engage her students.

Ms. Hasselbring was awarded one of the top 100 NASA Network of Educator Astronaut Teachers, which reflects her passion for her chosen profession. "I love coming to class knowing that I'm going to making a difference in a student's day," says Hasselbring.

Things really started to take off for Ms. Hasselbring, when the Milan School District adopted an innovative policy of placing interactive whiteboards in every classroom. This past year, proved to be a transformational experience for Ms. Hasselbring when she was introduced to RM Easiteach designed specifically for interactive whiteboards and remote pointing devices.

"Using RM Easiteach with my interactive whiteboard challenges me to do a better job for the kids, it engages them and makes my life easier," says Ms. Hasselbring.

That's an understatement when it comes to Ms. Hasselbring's 9th-Grade math class, where the classroom of the future exists today. Teaching the Pythagoras theorem takes on a whole new meaning, when students get to watch a baseball movie clip as part of math lesson, providing a real life example that helps them to contextualize the math. "The kids are learning and they don't realize it," says Ms. Hasselbring. "We need to meet their needs and interests."

While many high school students find math classes very challenging, Ms. Hasselbring has transformed her lessons with RM Easiteach. RM Easiteach software provides a powerful and flexible K-12 whole-class teaching solution which runs on all brands of interactive whiteboards and other remote pointing devices. Designed to provide powerful subject-specific teaching tools, this award winning software can transform the teaching experience for educators and the learning experience of their students. So what makes RM Easiteach out of this world for Ms. Hasselbring? "It's so easy to link to video and link out to the internet. Glass mode is a really nice feature to have. I really like using glass mode with Geometer's Sketchpad"

"Interactive Whiteboards continue to be the biggest technology revolution in classrooms" **Source:** (DTC, 2006)

How has RM Easiteach impacted on Ms. Hasselbring's teaching practice? "I'm motivated in that I can create better images for geometry. It's been a real time saver as I put my notes online for the students and post them to the web. Students now have the ability to browse the school portal for the class lesson. That's something they couldn't do before," says Ms. Hasselbring.

Ms. Hasselbring acknowledges that the transformation didn't happen overnight. She reflects on a Texas conference speaker, who inspired her to try some new things with technology, and experience that led to her RM Easiteach. "Start small and explore with the different tools that RM Easiteach offers," she advises. "The kids really like the animations, for example" says Ms. Hasselbring, "and so that's a good place to start". RM Easiteach also enables educators to address the notion of differentiated instruction. "It's time to wake up and smell the coffee," says Ms. Hasselbring. "We've got to meet students' needs in order to prepare them for the real world."

What impact is RM Easiteach is having on Cindy Hasselbring's teaching colleagues? "I always get asked by other teachers about RM Easiteach. The Principal realized we needed to do more staff training and asked me to lead the PD sessions. Teachers get really excited about RM Easiteach when they see it in action and experience it first hand. My sessions help get them going," says Ms. Hasselbring.

As for what's next for Ms. Hasselbring? To borrow a phrase from astronaut, Steve McLean, the sky is no longer the limit. "I was super excited. I love travel, I love to meet people and I love technology," says Ms. Hasselbring.

Further Information

If you are interested in learning more about how RM Easiteach can help to transform instruction within your school or school district, for all subject areas, please contact us for more details, or visit our website at www.rmeducation.com.

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