



Case Study:

The Sharon Academy



Toshiba Tablet PCs Heighten Learning and Enhance Stimulating Curriculum at The Sharon Academy

Challenge

The Sharon Academy (TSA) in Vermont was founded in 1996 by a group of parents, educators and community members who wanted to offer students a stimulating yet intimate learning environment. TSA is a private day school for grades 7 through 12 and offers a curriculum built on trust and the spirit of inquiry. Like many other schools, TSA is constantly looking for new techniques and technologies to encourage their students to reach and exceed their goals.

Solution

With class sizes ranging from 12 to 15 students, TSA offers students personalized attention based on their individual learning styles. Students follow an academically challenging curriculum including language, literature, arts, science, math, technology, social sciences, foreign language, physical education and health. Toshiba Tablet PCs were recently added to the educational experience at TSA to cultivate and encourage new ways of thinking and learning within these classes. Teachers and students have found that the Tablet PCs can be used for a variety of applications in many subject areas. Curtis Koren, Humanities teacher at TSA, comments that the Toshiba Tablet PCs are "the best computers we have. Everybody has a different application for them whether it be art, writing, engineering or math."

Benefits

TSA administrators and teachers are delighted with the effectiveness of the Toshiba Tablet PCs in the classroom. For instance, Ed Koren, Art teacher at TSA, noticed "the Tablet PC accents and influences the quality of work that the students are able to do." In addition, noteworthy benefits observed in the classroom include:

- > Increased student involvement and collaboration
- > Increased student efficiency and productivity
- > Advantages of a technology tool without the physical distractions

Story

The stated mission of the Sharon Academy is to encourage all students to develop the self-confidence necessary to realize their full potential, enabling them to become socially responsible, contributing members of their community and the world around them. The Toshiba

technology increasingly plays a role in education for all of us and the Tablet PC has become a very popular item here."

Teachers and students at TSA have found that the Toshiba Tablet PCs are very versatile across almost any subject being studied. For instance, students in the physics class have found the Tablet PC invaluable during science projects.

Hayden, a senior at TSA, said, "Throughout our projects we are constantly drawing sketches or making notes. Now with the Tablet PC you can just draw on the screen, change things throughout the project and have them handy whenever you need them."

Students have also found that the Tablet PC helps reduce duplication of work

since handwritten rough drafts or notes do not need to be retyped into a computer. Now they can write directly on the screen of the Tablet PC and then convert their notes to text. Notes and papers are better organized and can be found easier since they are stored in one central place rather than being scattered across multiple sheets of paper.

Finally, teachers are ecstatic that the Tablet PCs do not interfere with lessons in the classroom. Mr. Koren commented, "I love the fact that the Tablet PC folds down the way it does because the screen on most laptops is actually a real obstacle or barrier. It stands in the way between the student and teacher. The Tablet PC does not. It interfaces so well in the classroom."

Teachers and students at **TSA have found that the Toshiba Tablet PCs are very versatile** across almost any subject being studied.

Tablet PCs were acquired to help meet this goal and provide a tool for students and teachers to further improve the learning environment at TSA. Michael Livingston, Assistant Head of TSA, stated, "There's no question that