



S.K.I.L.L. 21

Successful Knowledge Integration
Learning with Laptops for 21st Century Skills



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This update is provided to the BASD Board of Directors in an effort to communicate the progress of the SKILL21 laptop initiative. It is the intent that these updates will occur on a weekly basis and will highlight one or more instances of integration each week. Please feel free to contact Robin Lutcher, Director of Information Technologies (rlutcher@bethsd.org), or Maria C. White, Technology Integration Specialist (mwhite@bethsd.org), if you have any questions on this article.

The students in team 6G at East Hills were involved in preparing a news broadcast video about Greece. Team 6G consists of the following teachers: Mrs. Metter, Mrs. Norton, Mr. Tavares, and Mrs. Godiska who is the team leader.

For the news broadcast video, groups of 3-4 students studied various topics related to Ancient Greece. The topics the students researched ranged from Philosophy and Math (Plato) to heroes, gods and monsters of Greek mythology, to fashion, weather, theater, and sports.

Each group of students brainstormed a topic about ancient Greece that they were interested in learning more about. The students began the project with an Inspiration web, detailing their initial ideas and preliminary information. Then they researched their topics in more depth, using a variety of resources. Among the sources used for research were books, magazines, World Book 2004 in their laptops, as well as the Internet. Students took notes in an Apple Works database provided by the teacher. This database featured electronic note cards and source cards. It provided a unique way for students to keep notes and an organized way to log sources for their bibliography. The database enabled the students to complete a difficult and tedious task efficiently and enthusiastically.

Next, students compiled their research in Apple Works to create a script for their news broadcast. Students learned to put facts together in an interesting format to convey a message while keeping the attention of an audience. Lastly, students created costumes, made props and practiced their lines, in order to be video taped. After taping was completed, the video was downloaded to the students laptops for video editing using iMovie. To conclude the project, all the individual projects were burned to CD's to be viewed by all students.

This project involved student collaboration and compilation of information, which impacted the learning of other students in the classroom. The use of the laptop as the main tool for all aspects of the projects enabled the students to be creative while working in groups to produce a news show. The use of the laptop empowered the students to achieve a high level of quality in their news broadcast productions.

Several standards in the Pennsylvania Academic Standards for Science and Technology were addressed by this activity. They include Standard 3.7.7.D, Applying computer software to solve specific problems, and 3.7.7.E, Applying online research techniques to solve a problem. The Academic Standards for History were covered by the following: 8.1A, People and events in time, 8.1.B, Literal meaning of a historical passage, 8.1.D, Historical events (time and place). Also, in the Standards for Reading, Writing, Speaking, and Listening, this activity addressed Standard 1.4.8, writing persuasive pieces.