

# Technology Tools in Title I Schools

**Ask** any teacher with more than fifteen years of teaching experience about the change in the current classroom environment and the word technology keeps coming up in the conversation. Gone are the stacks of papers to grade and chalkboards to clean. They have been replaced by technology tools that improve instruction and help students learn effectively.

Duncan Chapel Elementary School has implemented a variety of technology tools this school year. One of the tools, that have become a favorite with students, is the Flip camera. The Flip video camera is a technology tool that teachers are using with their students in the classroom. The small hand held camera features a hideaway USB connector and built in software that makes viewing and sharing the video incredibly easy. They are so easy to use that kindergarten students can independently record and play back videos of their classroom activities.

"I like to record the students actively engaged in their work and observe their learning experiences," said Julie Hair, kindergarten teacher at Duncan Chapel Elementary School. "It lets us highlight the process of learning instead of focusing on the end result and allows students an opportunity to creatively demonstrate and apply knowledge," Hair said. "Sharing the videos with the students, parents and other teachers gives us an accurate report of what is truly happening in the classroom," said Hair.



Duncan Chapel Elementary School kindergarten students, Emilee Akers and Nathan Lindsay, are pictured with their teacher Mrs. Hair, using the Flip video camera.

Using Promethean boards with ActivExpressions is another technology teaching tool that schools are using. ActivExpressions are handheld devices that allow teachers to create activities, quizzes, and students to express themselves through full phrases, symbols, and numbers. A two-way communication feature enables students to share answers with the teacher and their classmates, and allows teachers to give feedback directly to individual students or to the entire class. "I have found that using interactive technology motivates students and gets them excited about learning," said third grade teacher, Amanda Powell, at Duncan Chapel Elementary School. "It is very useful because it gives students and teachers immediate feedback about what they are learning and understanding," said Powell.



Chandler Gossett, Ms. Amanda Powell, Laura Wray and Greyson Boone use ActivExpressions in a third grade classroom at Duncan Chapel Elementary School.

Students at Alexander Elementary are also using ActivExpressions or "clickers" as the children call them. ActivExpressions, used in conjunction with the Promethean Boards, gives students another way of answering questions. Teachers are able to present questions to the students on the Promethean Board and the students then respond by typing in their answer using the "clickers". First

grade teacher Ms. Blackshire values the quick assessment when using ActivExpressions. "It allows us to monitor and adjust instruction without interrupting the lesson. You don't have to grade papers at the end of the day to assess comprehension," Blackshire said.

"Students at Alexander Elementary are fortunate to have the technological tools that not only create a great learning environment, but also prepare them to face the future," said principal Mrs. Leda Young. "Our students have the opportunity to use many forms of technology in the classroom and hopefully they will apply that knowledge in a "tech savvy" world," Young said.



Yobelqui Corea-Chavez uses the ActivExpression to identify odd and even numbers in her First Grade classroom at Alexander Elementary School.

But technology is not replacing teachers, classrooms or curriculum. Regenia McClain, Principal of Duncan Chapel Elementary School says, "Technology offers additional resources to facilitate learning. It can be used in many ways as an integral part of the curriculum to meet the needs of diverse learners and to keep our students competitive in the 21st Century."