

# Seamlessly Integrate Videoconferencing to Keep Curriculum in the Forefront

Presenters:

Deborah Fallon, Computer Teacher

Christine Imbesi, Fifth Grade Teacher

Emily O'Brien, Principal

Plainedge School District

SCOPE Conference 2006

# Our Goals

- Learn how videoconferencing capabilities can open walls to your elementary school and enhance learning.
- Professional development strategies , opportunities for meaningful videoconferences, successes, challenges, and possible solutions regarding scheduling, funding, and staff perception will be discussed.

# Our Equipment and Facility

- IP Videoconferencing Capability
- Polycom ViaVideo Videoconferencing Camera
- Large screen projection device
- Desktop computer
- Speakers
- Library



# Teacher's Questions

- Would I be able to use equipment?
- Will the students be able to really benefit from the experience?
- Will students be mature enough to understand the complexities of videoconferencing?
- What happens if there is a problem?
- Is videoconferencing just for computer experts?

# Be Creative

## Don't Let Obstacles Block You

- If you don't have videoconferencing capabilities yet, find a neighbor who does and take a road trip to their school so you can participate in the videoconference.
- Contact a local university and ask if they could lend you a camera to pilot implementing videoconferencing.
- Make your interest known to everyone who will listen.

# Benefits of Videoconferencing

- Open walls of school
- Danger and cost diminished
- Visit places you couldn't ordinarily visit

# Types of Videoconferences

- Peer to Peer – Collaborating students, schools or teachers
- Content Provider
- Communicate with an Expert
- Professional Development
- Student Unable to Attend School
- Coursework

# Key to Successful Videoconferencing

- Interactive
- Integrated into curriculum
- Accomplishes goal you couldn't accomplish as well by yourself in your own classroom.
- Test Call
- Lighting
- Audio
- Teacher as facilitator
- Students aware of behavior expectations
- The Show Must Go On!

# Steps for Building an Interactive Collaborative Classroom

- Determine Collaborating Teachers
- Pinpoint Curriculum
- Review Technological Logistics & Teaching Environment
- Brainstorm and Design Collaborative Content Based on Curriculum Goals and Objectives
  - Determine Collaboration Content Structure for Project
  - Before
  - During
  - After
- Select Strategies for Student Learning Activities
- Develop Curriculum materials, lessons, activities, resources etc.
  - Develop Assessment Tools
  - Rubrics
  - Quizzes, Tests
  - Journaling
- Projects

# Criteria for an Effective Program

- Exchange of content rich information
- Content is directly related to learning standards
- Learning Experience Integrated with Classroom Instruction
  - Student Centered Interactivity
  - Content
  - Communication
- Equipment
  - Outcomes directly impact student achievement
- Evidence
  - Effective use of the medium based on logistical parameters and digital content
- Location – classroom, library media center etc.
  - Integration of external resources into your classroom
  - School, Environment, Community, Museum, Zoo

*Slide developed by Project View [www.projectview.org](http://www.projectview.org)*

# Strategies for Student Learning Activities

- *Analysis*
- *Brainstorming*
- *Calculation*
- *Cause and Effect*
- *Create*
- *Compose*
- *Construct*
- *Debate*
- *Discussion*
- *Dramatization*
- *Draw*
- *Experimentation*
- *Exploration*
- *Kinesthetic Activity*
- *Interview*
- *Investigation*
- *Inquiry*
- *Modeling*
- *Presentation*
- *Problem-Solving*
- *Reading*
- *Reenact*
- *Research*
- *Role Playing*
- *Socratic Dialogue*
- *Synergetic*
- *Theatrics*
- *Tutoring*
- *Writing*

# Read Across America Videoconferences

[www.twice.cc/read](http://www.twice.cc/read)

- Annual project sponsored by TWICE to celebrate reading.
- Class paired with another participating class. Each class reads to the other for 15 minutes and then classes have a question and answer time so they can learn more about one another. This year schools in both the U.S. and abroad are invited to participate.
- Your class's presentation can be tailored to promote reading while meeting your curriculum needs.
- Mandatory equipment verification  
Nov. 1-Nov. 22.







# Videoconferencing Clips



[Read Across America Video](#)

# Connection With Third Graders in Texas

- Received invitation from a list serve.
- We shared a Jeopardy science game.
- Texas third graders shared a slide show about their community.



# Lee Richardson Zoo

[www.garden-city.org/zoo](http://www.garden-city.org/zoo)

- Free distance learning programs from interactive television studio.
- Students of any age can connect for a one-on-one visit with education staff and some of their special animal ambassadors.
- Choose one of the pre-planned program topics, or let the Lee Richardson Zoo create a program to fit your interests. Programs can be adapted to most grade levels.
- They do not charge a program fee; however, schools requesting a program are responsible for any connection costs.
- Videoconference topics



# Lee Richardson Zoo Sample Videoconference Descriptions

- **Animal Adaptations** - Animals look the way they do because of adaptations. We'll explore important adaptations like teeth, body coverings, and the five senses. Learn why these animal specialties are so important to their survival.



- **Awesome Amphibians** - Learn what makes amphibians so awesome and why they are an important indicator of healthy ecosystems. Discover many interesting features that group frogs, toads, salamanders, and newts in the same class



# Fort Ancient Videoconference

[www.ohiohistoryteachers.org/05/index.shtml](http://www.ohiohistoryteachers.org/05/index.shtml)



# NASA Digital Learning Network

<http://nasadln.nmsu.edu/dln/>

- Free videoconferences
- Pre-planned programs or will tailor to your needs
- Kindergarten learned about the solar system and exchanged information with NASA experts.

# Election Videoconference



# Immigration Videoconference



# COSI Videoconference

## Ask an Orinthologist

[cosi.org](http://cosi.org)

- Ask an Expert
- Piloted program and provided COSI with feedback.
- Received invitation on list serve.
- Students immersed in research wrote questions for the experts.

# Cotton Virtual Field Trip

[www2.stamford.esc14.net:1090/](http://www2.stamford.esc14.net:1090/)

- Virtual field trip impressively designed and delivered by high school students in Texas.
- Pre, post, and during videoconference hands-on activities were provided.
- Goal of the VFT was to reinforce some fundamental knowledge in geography, history and science, while giving students who do not have first-hand access to rural agriculture some insight into the process of growing cotton and the importance of this industry.



# The Sky Is the Limit

- Networking-Communicate with experts such as Dr. Stein
- Boston University-Connect with leading person who discovered artificial skin.
- NASA

# Professional Development Strategies

- Recruit a few pioneers in your school.
- Professional development period at 8:25 for those interested. Connect via videoconference with a colleague out of state who is a wealth of information regarding videoconferencing.
- Facilitate videoconferencing inservice course through Teacher Center.
- Have learning communities from 2 different schools meet via a videoconference to discuss videoconference experiences.
- Be a videoconference liaison and inform colleagues about relevant videoconference opportunities.

# Staff Perception

- Help staff see benefits of videoconferencing-literally opens the walls to your school.
- Help all staff see they possess the talent and skill to utilize the videoconferencing equipment and facilitate an effective videoconference. Differentiate the type of support guiding teachers to become more independent.
- Stay calm. Have key people available to lend a hand.
- Empower teachers by encouraging them to plug in the equipment etc.
- Highlight videoconferences on website.
- Invite staff members to help you facilitate videoconferencing professional development.
- Communicate needs to your tech staff so teachers will be able to seamlessly integrate videoconferencing.
- Maintain a videoconferencing calendar on website to inform techs of videoconferences and so teachers can peruse videoconference selected by colleagues.

# Challenges

- Organize videoconferencing materials on a webpage <http://www.plainedgeschools.org/dfallon/videoconferencingresources.htm>
- Support-Substitute covered library classes the first year so librarian could support Read Across America participants. Second year held meeting for those interested in participating in the Read Across America videoconferences. Teachers had opportunity for a videoconference equipment refresher and teacher then facilitated the Read Across videoconference. The librarian or computer teacher was nearby in case teacher needed assistance.
- Schedule-Re-arrange classes, push-in
- Keep scheduling process as simple as possible so teachers can focus on curriculum.

# Funding

- Your School District
- PTA
- Grants
- Create free, meaningful opportunities

# Videoconference List Servs and Resources

- ❑ Videoconference Resources Compiled By Debbie Fallon  
<http://www.plainedgeschools.org/dfallon/videoconferenceresources.htm>
- ❑ Vanderbilt Center for Science Outreach  
<http://www.vanderbilt.edu/cso/emaillist.php>
- ❑ Videoconferencing Collaboration Collage  
<http://www.kn.sbc.com/wired/vidconf/ed1vidconf.html>
- ❑ CILC List Serv  
[http://cilc.org/member\\_modify.aspx](http://cilc.org/member_modify.aspx)
- ❑ K-1 Videoconferencing List Serv  
<http://neirtec.terc.edu/k12vc/forward/listserv.cfm>
- ❑ TWICE List Serv  
<http://www.twice.cc/listserve.html>
- ❑ Project View Integration Plans  
<http://www.projectview.org/IntegratonPlan/IndexofPlans.htm>

Thank You