



Description: Empowering Special Needs Children through mimio® Interactive Technology

no.001

Location: North Shelby School, NC



"...empower students with the skills needed to function as self-reliant and productive citizens in the 21st century."

~ Donnie Peeler

mimio® with a "can do" attitude

When Donnie Peeler goes to work in the morning, it's with one thought in mind:

"We never give up on student success."

You see, Donnie is a Technology Specialist at North Shelby School, a K-12 Special Purpose school within the Cleveland County school district in North Carolina. And at North Shelby, where students from age 3 to 21 attend, the vision is to "never give up" and the mission is to "... provide specialized and individualized educational and support services uniquely designed to empower students with the skills needed to function as self-reliant and productive citizens in the 21st century." And one of Donnie's favorite tools for accomplishing that mission is mimio®.

Goals and Challenges

The sign of a smart person is not that he or she always comes up with the right idea but that they recognize a good idea when they encounter one. That's precisely what happened in the case of the Cleveland County schools and North Shelby. One day, an administrator from another school approached North Shelby with the idea of implementing mimio technology into the classroom. After all, North Shelby's students were all special needs kids with a huge variety of learning issues. Readily accepting the recommendation, the school chose mimio because the software is designed to stimulate learning and retention plus the fact that mimio is portable and flexible, doesn't cost a ton of money and is both student and teacher-friendly.

Meeting the Challenge

Donnie and his colleagues use mimio Studio software to expand the teaching experience and create an interactive, exciting learning environment. From the gallery, teachers can not only select a vast array of ready-to-use lessons but also alter them as needed. Dynamic lessons are the hit of many classes when teachers use audio, video and Flash to impart knowledge and illustrate concepts. And because mimio software works so well with other standard software, teachers can use their favorite applications and already-existing lessons in applications like PowerPoint, Word, Excel and Adobe Acrobat.



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Outcome

Today, North Shelby is a beehive of mimio activities. Donnie has trained over 80% of the staff at the school and most classrooms are using their mimio Interactive systems several times a week, if not daily. And the uses are so far ranging that the latest applications are regularly reported in the school newspaper, the North Shelby Mustang Messenger. For instance, in the Intermediate 1 math classroom, one of the students' favorite lessons involves using mimio to let each student to get in front of the class and play a math game from the computer. This allows the students to show their classmates the goals they are currently working on and the progress they have made.

In another Mustang report, Junior students in both the Occupational Course of Study and the Extensions of the Standard Course of Study are required to learn the concepts of perimeter and area. Using mimio along with websites such as www.shodor.org and www.bgfl.org, students can work on the concepts as well as find practical uses for perimeter and area in household projects such as buying paint and carpet.

Visually impaired students, in particular, do well with mimio technology since the huge visuals allow them to see and participate in the lesson.

And then there's the hairstyling session. Just ask a North Shelby student for one example of why they love their mimio and chances are you'll hear about the practical life session in which students were able to "try on" various hairstyles to see which they liked and which were the most flattering. After all, the mission of North Shelby is to "... provide specialized and individualized educational and support services uniquely designed to empower students with the skills needed to function as self-reliant and productive citizens in the 21st century." And what could be more empowering than having confidence in the way you look?