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C O M M U N I C A T I O N S

Empowering Education Through Technology

Good Morning:

Below is an **A+nyWhere Learning System [A+]** Testimonial from **Supt. Glenn Krueger, Kankakee Valley School Corporation, Wheatfield, Indiana...**

It details how he is 'deploying' **with results** the MANY features & capabilities of **A+** for a District-wide "best-practices" Educational Solution.

Glenn will entertain your call at 219. 987.4711 x 111 to discuss and/or schedule a visit to his District for a 'show-n-tell' given by Glenn and his High School Principal, Mr. Bill Auger, and/or his Alternative School Director, Jim Wickman.

Or, you can visit: www.amered.com and take a Tour of the **A+** Program.

Thank you!

Superintendent Dr. Glenn Krueger's **A+** Testimonial

I have summarized the uses of the **A+ nyWhere Learning System** as implemented in the Kankakee Valley School Corporation.

We started the **A+** Program to solve a graduation rate problem. We were experiencing a lower than state average graduation rate and a high number of class failures in our high school. On average students were failing 200 classes each semester at our high school of 1000 students. We implemented a **Credit Recovery Program** in the summer of 2006. We intended to enroll about four or five students in the Credit Recovery Program to ascertain the best to use the program.

The word traveled through our community by word of mouth. We did not advertise the program. By mid July we had 45 students enrolled in the program. It expanded by word of mouth. Credit Recovery enables high school students who fail a class to recover a credit during the summer, fall and spring of any school year using the **A+** program.

The program is available on our server with students having access via our LAN at school and via the Internet portals (90) at home. The two public libraries also have computers that can access the **A+** software.

Students who do not have Internet connections at home can use the school computers and/or the library's computers. **A+** is available to students 24/7 via the Internet except when maintenance is being performed.

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As of the date above, over 300 classes have been recovered using the **A+** Program.

The second use of **A+** is the establishment of **Power Standards** in mathematics and language arts during the 2006-2007 school year. Power standards are those Indiana standards that have been selected for mastery at each grade level.

We place the Power Standards on the **A+** Program. By using the snap test option, we test all students in grades 3-8. (Kindergarten through grade two use paper and pencil versions of the **A+** assessment program). Grades 3-8 test results are immediately available to the teachers for analysis.

Teachers can modify the **A+** lessons as needed to better match the students academic needs. Science and social studies Power Standards will be added in the fall of 2008 from kindergarten to grade 10.

All students in grades 3-8 are assigned one class period per week (45 to 60 minutes) to work on supplemental instruction based on the **A+** assessments. **A+** automatically assigns the lessons based on each students need.

The program is therefore, individualized to each and every student. **A+** keeps a system wide database for all our students. A teacher can look up any student at any time to access any students progress. This database drives our curriculum and particularly our supplemental instructional program **A+**

Assessment: The third way **A+** is used in our district is with new students. **A+** uses adaptive assessments for each student to determine the students strengths and weaknesses. Often students transfer into our schools without any cumulative folders or report cards. Teachers and administrators have no basis for assigning students to a classroom. **A+** provides a needed assessment and an individualized set of lessons for each student.

Alternative Education is an important part of our educational programming. Our program covers grades 7-12 for students in need of academic assistance. As mentioned in the Credit Recovery Program, our alternative students also use the **A+** program for assessments and practice of needed skills.

During the summer of 2007, the Kankakee Valley School Corporation piloted the **A+** Program as a **Summer Supplemental Instruction Program** in grades 6-8. The purpose was to learn how to maximize the use of the **A+** Program with students who were in need of supplemental instruction. The experience of that program provided the background to implement the supplemental instructional program system-wide for the 2007-2008 school year as discussed under **Power Standards**.

The **A+** Program is offered to high school students who are in **Home Schools** at no charge. In the 2006-2007 school years, **A+** was offered to six students. Eventually, all six transitioned into the regular high school. This school year more home school students will be signed up. Using **A+** we are expected to reverse the home school trend in our district.

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Academic Advancement Program is available to advanced students. Students who have difficulty scheduling their academic classes are permitted to take an **A+** class to fit that class into their high school program. Although the number of students in this program is typically less than ten per school year, the students who have used the program have experienced more class availability and flexibility in their high school careers. This program has been extremely useful to the college bound.

Homebound Instruction: Students who are homebound due to a medical or other condition are also placed on the **A+** Program. They have access through the Internet and concurrently we provide traditional homebound tutorials with a teacher visiting the student. The **A+** Program provides a record of lessons completed and monitors the students time on task ensuring the student makes adequate progress with his or her peers.

I hope this letter clarifies the many ways we use the **A+** Program.

Dr. Glenn Krueger
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