



Imagine

Desktop Movies and the New Media Academy

Teachers at Grossmont High School in San Diego, California, are finding new ways to keep their students motivated and excited about learning. By incorporating iMac DV computers and built-in iMovie digital video editing software into their class lessons, teachers in traditional subject areas are inspiring a new enthusiasm for learning as students discover Desktop Movies. The students' passion for learning with these new tools astonishes even

their teachers. Don Henderson, a classroom teacher who also runs the Technology Discovery Center at Grossmont High, reports, "They grab their cameras. They edit on iMac DV computers—they'll even spend the entire weekend working on their projects."

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Don Henderson, Director
Technology Discovery Center
Grossmont High School

New skills for a new medium. Students must master many skills to make Desktop Movies. Don Henderson's class at Grossmont demands that students switch roles during the course of each production, providing them with hands-on experiences as scriptwriters, storyboard artists, directors, and editors.

Desktop Movies make learning memorable

One of the core technology integration programs on the Grossmont campus, ASAT (American Studies and Technology) combines social science, English, and history classes with a multimedia production class. ASAT teachers work with the same group of students in a program that spans three periods of academics, followed by a class in the computer lab where students work on developing Desktop Movies that integrate and present what they have learned.

According to Henderson, who helps facilitate the ASAT program, these Desktop Movie projects are powerful ways to teach across the curriculum, "because the excitement of making their own videos encourages students to buy in. When there's a personal message, that's meaningful."

Of course, there's more to making a Desktop Movie than picking up a video camera and simply shooting tape. The entire pre-production process still requires traditional academic research. Students who enter the program thinking that their days of writing are over are sorely disappointed. These digital



storytelling projects demand a lengthy paper trail—from a project synopsis to storyboards, a shooting script, and a production log. At the end of their projects, Henderson says, “Students have not only mastered their subjects, they’ve also learned that they can be successful. The result combines academic understanding with a powerful personal experience.”

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Brad Lichtman, Principal
Grossmont High School

Thanks to the iMac DV, Grossmont students “are able to do incredible projects on inexpensive computers,” Henderson says. “My students are begging to use iMovie. The software is so simple that it allows us to stay focused on the story instead of worrying about technical issues. With iMovie there are no barriers to creativity. Students can sit down at the iMac and incorporate what they’ve learned into a classroom presentation.”

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Curriculum standards meet meaningful experiences

ASAT and the Technology Discovery Center have been such a huge success that Grossmont principal Brad Lichtman would like to expand the center into a schoolwide multimedia digital academy designed to address all the major academic disciplines. Lichtman knows his program must meet the needs of all students—from advanced placement students who are headed for Harvard to students with severe disabilities, as well as those in between.

Getting parents excited about the digital academy has been “one of the easiest sells in the world,” Lichtman says. “When I speak to parents, I say that in three years, when your kids get their diplomas and walk across that stage, we can point to a list of competencies that show exactly what those kids can accomplish and what they have mastered.” That’s a very attractive notion to a parent.

Lichtman wants nothing less than to “provide students with real-world experiences aligned with our curriculum standards and married to meaningful activities using technology.” The digital high school Lichtman envisions will replicate authentic experiences across the entire curriculum, integrated with traditional subject areas such as literature, science, math, and the humanities.

Preparing students for the information economy

The goal is to prepare students to be successful, whether they choose to pursue further academic studies or explore a career. Not so long ago, Grossmont’s Technology Discovery Center, which boasts five iMac DV computers and more than three dozen Power Mac computers, was a metal shop. Today, the state-of-the-art computer lab is a hotbed of Desktop Movie production. At Grossmont High, they are finding that the focus is on the future.



It takes a team to make a Desktop Movie.

Students take on all roles, from writer to video editor, as they make Desktop Movies. Learn more about making Desktop Movies at www.apple.com/education.

Opportunities for bringing Desktop Movie technology into the classroom abound at www.grossmont.k12.ca.us/grossmont/grossmont.html.

To learn more about Grossmont High School and Desktop Movies, visit www.apple.com/education.