

End of year Grant Feedback on Presentation Projector

When I first purchased the presentation projector, I had what I thought were many applications in mind. Since having the projector available, I have found that it is a significant help to preparing, organizing and teaching my classes. I also found that the students are often inspired to perform at a higher level when they can incorporate this state-of-the-art technology into their own classroom presentations. I have also found that the projector is helpful in numerous other situations in which demonstrations, presentations of data and other communications are required. Finally, I believe the projector provided a catalyst for challenging and improving the general learning and understanding of subject matter material in my class last year. Throughout the year the presentation projector has been an integral part of my classroom. Over the last 9 months I have routinely used the projector in all subject areas. As I prepare for the upcoming school year, I will incorporate this device more and more as new technologies and ideas present themselves.

I have found the projector to be very useful in the classroom because of its versatility, its ability to support comprehensive learning and flexibility. The projector is a highly effective platform for presenting information that is dynamic and engaging for the students. For example, once I found and loaded the appropriate information (student work or text book/written materials) or websites, I can easily provide real-world, or real-classroom, based examples of the type of writing we are studying, and demonstrate the various components of brainstorming, organizing, writing, editing and smoothing writing projects. Being able to put examples quickly on the screen, work with them, change them and smooth them as I model or as we discuss the various stages, results in a quicker, more fundamental understanding of the writing process. I can easily move to more examples of a difficult concept, or move on to a new idea, based on the data I have stored. Since the process is both quick and fluid, I am able to incorporate student input, and take the writing demonstrations in the direction suggested by the class instead of being harnessed to my own pre-class notions of how a lesson will flow. Additionally, since the class is generally full of children who use the internet and other technology daily, I find that they are far more engaged, and sometimes able to suggest resources on line which are appropriate to demonstrate various concepts. The ability to identify and rapidly respond to ideas and discussions allows the class to progress at the rate the students set, not the rate dictated by limited technology such as slides and white-board demonstrations.

One of the biggest impacts of having the presentation projector has been

with my students. They enjoy lessons more because they are presented visually and in most cases interactive. As I wrote in my midyear feedback, the use of the projector helped my students organize their thinking and writing by showing them examples of their work while we, as a class, discuss and edit. Additionally, we conducted classroom discussions on organization and revision of these examples as I illustrated the revisions with the projector. Students used the projector to give classroom social studies presentations on Black Historical figures and Famous Women in History, two major exercises during the school year. The projector allowed them to seamlessly incorporate non-traditional resources, such as web pages and video clips into their presentations. At the end of the year, they took full advantage of this technology as they presented their “free choice” projects. They thoroughly enjoyed using the projector and through that use became familiar and knowledgeable about “real-world” presentation software. The fusion of this technology with other tools, such as PowerPoint and Photo Story, increased my student interest level and subject matter learning.

Additional uses of the projector appeared throughout the year. I used it during Open House to make a PowerPoint presentation to parents. It made beginning of the year data presentations more realistic and meaningful, and allowed me to incorporate pictures of classroom activities into my presentation. I was able to show a “morning meeting” and reading groups to help the parents understand the classroom processes. During monthly faculty meetings, the projector was used in a number of ways by teachers or all grade levels and in all subjects. Finally, professional development and the presentation projector were integrated and are now, to the delight of the staff, inseparable.

As I start the new school year, I am reviewing my CMT data for my previous class. That class arrived at the 5th grade with generally low scores. What I notice is advances, and a few students, simply no losses, in reading, writing, math, and science for every student. Not one student did worse than the previous year. My biggest gains were in writing, with 80% achieving a goal score of 4 out of 5 in the writing portion of the test. I would like to think that part of that improvement is attributable to the infusion of technology which engages these 21st century students where they are, in a fast-moving world where technology is present in nearly every aspect of their lives. I know that the projects, class discussions, and work products seemed improved because they were linked with the ability to move at the pace of the class' understanding instead of limited by dated subject matter presentations.

For next school year and beyond, the uses of the device seem to be limited only by my imagination, current software and student ingenuity. I will continue to use it for presentations to parents, my students' monthly projects, professional development, and my writing program. In the future, I intend to use the projector to support the new district math program that has a strong technology component.

This will require daily use of the projector. In language arts, I plan to incorporate the use of a document camera with the presentation projector to full advantage of the types of materials that can be presented visually. Additionally, I plan to use it to present video podcasts developed by students in all subject matter areas. The use of the device will be a mainstay of my classroom writing program and I plan to incorporate similar uses with a weekly writing club that I started last year as well as an after school enrichment program, called Aerospace Adventurers. I am excited by the prospect of learning new and useful ways to incorporate technology into the classroom this school year and beyond.

To summarize, I have used the projector in my teaching with increasing frequency to present ideas, concepts, data and student work in all subject areas. The ability to show images, animations, and video make the lessons come alive for the students and I think increases their interest and capacity for learning. They seem to be much more involved in the learning process and motivated to do more. By tapping into a variety of intelligences, I have been able to maximize my access to each student with the use of the projector. The body-kinesthetic and the visual spatial intelligences are sometimes difficult to reach through traditional teaching methods. Having the projector available to illustrate and have the students interact with concepts helped a great deal in reaching my learning objectives. I can say, without question, that my teaching has improved and that my students have benefitted from the use of the projector.

I thank you for the generous grant and hopefully have showed how this money was spent to improve student learning and achievement.

Sincerely,

Alex Rode

Technology

The Work Big IN2104 is made for heavy-use with moderate-high resolution sources, featuring XGA-native resolution of 1024x768. This model is ideal for users who typically connect to newer 4:3 laptop and desktop computer sources, document cameras and digital scopes to create collaborative work environments. The IN2104 will perform at a higher level than the IN2102 because every pixel on-screen is reflected from an individual mirror in the chipset, providing a larger, clearer projected image. The InFocus IN2104 DLP® projector with BrilliantColor™ technology and 5 segment color wheel displays realistic colors and brighter images that last.

Performance

Powered by 2500 Lumens, the IN2100 series project bright images in high ambient light environments. The 2000:1 contrast ratio preserves detail in dark images.

The lamp lasts up to 3000 hours and when necessary can be quickly changed without removing an installed projector from the ceiling

Connectivity & Control

Advanced connectivity choices include multiple computer and audio inputs - so it's easy to switch between presenters; a Wireless-Ready port for an easy upgrade to InFocus' LiteShow II, for a less expensive ceiling mounted installation; RS232 port for integration with industry -standard meeting room control systems.

Reliability & Security

The IN2100 projectors are dust-free systems. There aren't any fan filters or lamp screens to change, which makes for 24x7 certified operation, providing around the clock, maintenance free projection. Security - Kensington lock and PIN code feature will keep the projector in the proper location and under authorized use.