



Palm Projects 2003-2004

Forman Elementary School

Description of Project:

The Palm Handheld project at Forman Elementary was designed to determine whether student learning was facilitated by a 1-to-1 ratio for students-to-computers. Palms were issued to Mrs. Patrick's 3rd grade class. The Palms were integrated into Language Arts to allow students access to technology to improve their writing skills, keyboarding skills, technology skills, and as a time management tool for recording assignments and test dates. Students completed numerous writing assignments at home. The Palms were integrated into Math for students to improve their addition, subtraction and multiplication skills. The Palms were integrated into Social Studies (Integrated Curriculum) as instruction was provided to the students on responsibility for school property, ownership of software, and copyright violations. During the project, students developed vocabulary related to the Palms, learned to beam, to perform a hot sync, and to use both the stylus and keyboard for data input. Technology specialists instructed the students on beaming as students beamed each other Giraffe and Monkey Math. The specialists also instructed the teacher and students and resolved technical problems in performing a hot sync to put Docs To Go on each handheld.

On rainy days when recess had to be held indoors, Mrs. Patrick's students invited students from other classes to visit them for recess and they taught the visitors how to use the Palms and showed them some of the activities they had used Palms for.

Summary:

- Students learned to work with technology.
- Students developed file management skills as they were taught to use special hot sync logins and save to one drive and then to log in as themselves and move the files to their own home directories.
- Students were motivated to do assignments because they liked working with the Palms.
- In taking proper care of the Palms, students developed pride in themselves as responsible citizens.
- Eight of the students did not have computers at home and, therefore, could not sync at home. However, as a result of this project, these students gained the ability to do computer assignments at home using their Palm handhelds and keyboards.
- Students were eager to participate in peer-to-peer tutoring, so collaboration skills were developed.
- The project requires a time commitment from the teacher.
- The project requires time and support from Instructional Technology in providing instruction and resolving technical problems.
- The project requires time and support from Technology in installing software and resolving network issues.
- Because of other district commitments, there was not sufficient time for a complete study of the project.
- The project will be continued next year with different students.
- The Palms will be issued to students earlier in the school year.

Summary (cont.):

- More time will be allocated to studying the implications of the project for improving student learning.

TEKS:

Social Studies (Integrated Curriculum) 112.5

- 3.10 Citizenship
 - a. identify characteristics of good citizenship such as a belief in justice, truth, equality, and responsibility for the common good
 - b. identify and explain the importance of acts of civic responsibility, including obey laws
- 3.18 Social Studies Skills The student uses problem-solving and decision-making skills, working independently and with others, in a variety of settings.

Technology Applications 126.3 b 2

- B use proper keyboarding techniques
- C demonstrate touch keyboarding
- D produce documents at the keyboard, proofread, and correct errors
- E use language skills including capitalization, punctuation, and spelling.

Technology Applications 126.3 b 3

- A Follow acceptable use policies when using computers
- B model respect of intellectual property by not illegally copying software or another individual's electronic work.

Language Arts 3.14

- A write to record ideas and reflections.
- B write to discover, develop and refine ideas
- C write to communicate with a variety of audiences
- D write in different forms for different purposes such as lists to record, ...stories or poems to entertain

Language Arts 3.15

- B use capitalization and punctuation

Language Arts 3.16

- Write with more proficient spelling

Math 111.15 b 3.3

- A model addition and subtraction using pictures, words, and numbers
- B select addition or subtraction and use the operation to solve problems involving whole numbers through 999.

Math 111.15 b 3.4

- A learn and apply multiplication facts through the tens
- B solve and record multiplication problems