



Palm Projects 2003-2004

Plano Senior High School

Description of the Project:

In the spring of 2003, the creative writing class at Plano Senior High School was a part of the PISD palm project. Students were issued Palms to use at school and home. In using them in conjunction with lesson plans, they were utilized in the following ways:

- 1) Daily journaling is a part of the writing process, so students journaled on their palms.
 - a) Students wrote more in their journals than in previous years. They could write faster and enjoyed it more.
 - b) They were able to journal in different locations because the lab could move with them.
- 2) Writing a short story is another place in the curriculum we used the palms.
 - a) Students wrote more because they could write and edit more quickly.
 - b) We were able to have the lab in class, so that students could work on their stories with me available for consultation; whereas, without palms that writing would be done at home.
 - c) Students used the palm for editing. They were able to beam parts of their story to be proofread to other students or the teacher. Once edited, the marked document would be sent (beamed) back to the creator. This saved a great deal of paper.
- 3) Writing poetry is another part of the curriculum in which we used the palms.
 - a) Because the students could write more quickly, we used less time writing the poetry during class and were able to integrate more styles of poetry writing into the curriculum.
 - b) When we studied music lyrics as poetry, the students downloaded song lyrics from the Internet onto their palms. We beamed them to my computer and were able to project them to the class to analyze.
- 4) Note-taking was made easier, and the students were much more interested in taking notes.

Additionally, students used the palms in other classes and outside of school.

- 1) They used the palms as a calculator at school and for personal use outside of school.
- 2) They used the palms as a dictionary at school and outside of school.
- 3) They used the palms to take notes in other classes.
- 4) They used the palms for an organizer, scheduling and keeping up with homework.
- 5) They used the palms to write papers in other classes.
- 6) They used the palms for E-mail and as phone/address books.
- 7) They used the palms to play games.
- 8) They used them as a clock.

Summary:

The palms were a resounding success for several reasons. Because of size and flexibility, it was commented that the handheld computers were incredibly convenient. They are small enough to fit in a purse or backpack and the keyboards made anywhere a computer lab. To the teacher, they were a lifesaver. Since there is no regular access to a lab, the palms enhanced the class writing process, saved time and enabled the teacher to add more to the curriculum. The students were more eager to write, and a few trees were saved in the process. Normally the class would use up to three reams of paper to print out materials. This semester, we used less than one.