

CASE STUDY: VISION

Using Vision, Media Centers Meet Their Mission, Keep Students Focused on Learning

Learn how two high school library media centers supervise student computer use more efficiently and ensure students use the Internet to support learning in this case study of classroom management software.

Newberry High School is part of the Alachua County School District in north central Florida. Despite its proximity to Gainesville, the City of Newberry retains its rural identity, with a population of less than 3,400.

Today's high school students are sophisticated users of the Internet. Combining their tech-savvy with the rebellious, curious natures teens are famous for creates a challenge for schools that incorporate Internet research and education into the learning process. The challenge is particularly acute in high school library media centers, where students are largely responsible for their own behavior and activities.

Keeping Students on Track

At Fontana A. B. Miller High School in Fontana, Calif., media services director Mona Shehata has enjoyed a four-year love affair with Vision[™] classroom management software. "It's my guardian angel," she declared. "I love it!" There are 4,300 students using the media center's 21 computers, with only Shehata and her assistant to

help. "These kids are smart," she said. "Even with the district firewall, they can figure out how to get to the Internet. They used to wait 'til I was busy, then sneak around on the Internet."

With Vision firmly entrenched in the media center's infrastructure, Shehata's supervision duties are significantly lighter, allowing her to focus on helping students with their work. "If students are online and trying to do research into a topic or find a book title, I can see what they're doing, find it on my computer and then show them on theirs, all without leaving my desk unattended," she said. "I help them get started on their assignments, so they don't put it off."

An additional bonus for Shehata is that her assistance can speed up a student's computer time, freeing up the workstation for someone else. "Every class is 35 students, so the sooner I help them find what they need, the better, she said. "Plus, I'm always trying to promote books to the kids, so this helps to transition them."

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Benefits of Using Vision and SurfLock

- Helps to enforce computer and Internet use policies
- Eases the monitoring burden for the media center staff
- Allows media specialists to assist students quickly and remotely
- Keeps students on task
- Eases congestion and waiting time for computer use
- Overcomes physical limitations of older computer labs

computer system management, Shehata has few problems keeping students on task in the media center. "The students are wonderful now, because they know," she said. "They don't try to get away with things anymore. This is a lifesaver for every librarian."

"Eyes That Can See Behind"

At Newberry High School in Newberry, Fla., media specialist Bonnie Hampton relies on Vision classroom management software to give her eyes that can see behind her and around corners, to monitor student computer use - and misuse. Located west of Gainesville in north central Florida, Newberry High School serves an enrollment of about 550 students in grades 9 to 12. Its media center has 14 computers for student use, laid out in clusters rather than rows;

Hampton faces a monitoring challenge since there is no clear view of all the workstations.

Until the students become acclimated to the rules governing Internet use, Hampton and her aide are tasked with enforcing the acceptable use policies of the school. Vision allows them to view all 14 computer screens at once, so swift action can be taken when needed. "We can see what everyone's doing at a glance," she said. "I love the fact that I can connect and shut them off when I need to."

Smart Choice for the School

As media specialist, Hampton has a different experience with student computer use from that of her colleagues. "I have so many students in and out," she said. "It's harder than in a classroom because I don't know the kids as well as a teacher would. They're all different ages; some come in only once, while some are in every day. Vision helps me ensure that they are using the Internet to support learning."

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