

concepts, and their learning was more inquiry-based and collaborative—of particular benefit to our ELL students.” STEMscopes includes problem-based learning, engineering challenges, scientific investigations, math and literacy connections, and culminating claim-evidence-reasoning assessments.

The Virtual High School Celebrates 20th Anniversary

Today, as it celebrates its 20th anniversary, **The Virtual High School (VHS)** delivers online instruction to middle and high school students at



639 schools in 33 countries. VHS had more than 18,000 student enrollments in courses in the 2015-2016 school year. Over the last two decades, the organization has grown from a small operation launched with a U.S. Department of Education technology challenge grant to an international, nonprofit elearning provider. All VHS partner schools have access to a wide range of core, elective, credit recovery, and AP courses. Currently, the VHS offers 23 AP classes, one of the largest catalogs of online AP courses.

Duval County Public Schools Replace Aging Projectors and Whiteboards with NEC Touchscreen Display

Like many districts, Duval County Public Schools (FL) found itself needing to upgrade or



replace aging projectors and interactive whiteboards. District administrators wanted to standardize a solution across the district and chose large **NEC** Touchscreen Displays to replace both projectors and whiteboards. One of the biggest factors in the district’s choice was that the display software uses native drivers within Windows, eliminating district concerns about outdated software and the costs of upgrading. The plug-and-play functionality, as well as the displays’ portability, were essential to the district’s choice.

The district also purchased media carts as part of a bundle, which allows the displays to move around the classroom as needed. Installation began rolling out in March 2015 and now Duval County has 2,500 displays across its schools and plans to have interactive displays in all core classrooms in each of its 45 schools this year.

NOVEMBER SNEAK PEEK

In our next issue we will have comprehensive coverage from the recent CIO Summit in Baltimore on Digital Equity. Here is an advance look at one of the questions that dominated the conversation.

Q. Have you succeeded (with or without help from partners) in extending access beyond school walls/hours—e.g., on school buses, community hotspots, portions of school buildings open to the public after hours, etc.?

A. We have Kajeet (limited) hotspots available for checkout, we *really* try to inform parents about alwayson.org and Connect2Compete, local free wi-fi availability, etc. We are also exploring different possibilities for wi-fi on buses.

—SCOTT HARRIS, TECHNOLOGY DIRECTOR, NEOSHO (MO) SCHOOL DISTRICT

A. Our students are all 1:1 with Chromebooks and our schools are open for extended hours each day for activities. We also have many opportunities in the community for students to connect online - especially in the libraries.

—HENRY THIELE, SUPERINTENDENT, DOWNERS GROVE (IL) COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 99