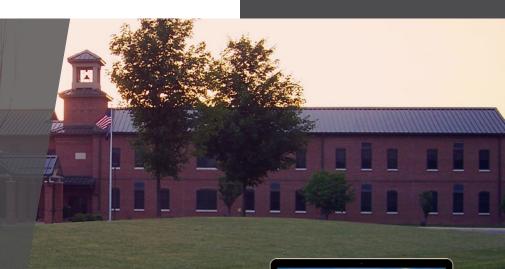# Cornwall-Lebanon K-12 School District

Using Panopto to increase student achievement, teacher efficiency and parental involvement

When Jason Murray, technology coordinator for the Cornwall-Lebanon School District in Lebanon County, Pennsylvania, visited a fourth grade classroom, he was excited to see 10-year-old students using technology that had once been reserved solely for adults.

As part of a poetry unit, small groups of students were cycling through various activity stations where they completed different projects related to the unit. One of the tasks included reciting an original poem. But instead of performing in front of the teacher, students were setting up a webcam, hitting "Record" on a computer interface, and recording their presentations for teachers, students and parents to view later.

That example is just one of the innovative uses teachers within the Cornwall-Lebanon School District have found for Panopto. An easy-to-use platform for capturing and sharing academic video, Panopto is revolutionizing the way students across grade levels learn while challenging the traditional definition of lecture capture.

Starting out: Video for teachers only

When Murray first started looking for a lecture capture solution, his main goal was to help faculty members better understand classroom technologies, while decreasing the workload of the IT department.

With six schools located within the district, Murray's department was responsible for helping teachers implement technologies at many different locations. This meant that many days the IT staff would spend valuable time driving to different schools which could have been used to help teachers with technology problems.

"With a small technical staff and six schools to service, we were greatly outnumbered. It was difficult to reach all teachers that needed us," said Murray.

The physical distance between schools also made it difficult to hold technology workshops for teachers, as scheduling conflicts often made it necessary for IT workers to hold multiple training sessions at different locations. Recognizing the

At a glance

Cornwall-Lebanon School District
Location: Lebanon County, PA
Type: Public School District
Grades Served: K-12
Number of Students: 4,700

Website: www.clsd.k12.pa.us

inefficiencies of this process, Murray began looking for a solution that would allow him to communicate with faculty members across the district.

After evaluating multiple solutions, Murray chose Panopto for its low total cost of ownership and rich media recordings that included video, audio and screen capture components. As a software solution that could use simple webcams for recording, Panopto could be deployed across the district with no costly equipment required.

Following a successful implementation, Murray and his colleagues began sending video podcasts to faculty members in weekly email blasts. Each recording would feature a different classroom technology and would provide a demonstration on how to use it. Recordings also were posted to an internal website so faculty members could access them at their convenience.

"Previously when a teacher needed help, we would drive to the school and go over the issue in person. Now with Panopto, if a teacher forgets something like how to connect a data projector, he or she can go to the website, click on the link for that training session, and get the information at any time. The addition of Panopto has cut down on so many work orders that it was like adding a staff member to the IT department," said Murray.

As faculty members embraced Panopto recordings for professional development, their interest in using the software with their students grew. So when a Cornwall-Lebanon student became ill and needed to miss weeks of school, his teacher approached Murray about using Panopto to record the classes the student was going to miss. Murray's team quickly agreed to help, and soon after, the first Cornwall-Lebanon teacher was ready to record content for her students.

Mastering Objectives with Panopto

Following successful use of Panopto to help a sick student, word of the software's easy-to-use recording technology spread across the district. Teachers from all grade levels wanted to learn more about how to create recordings that could benefit students in the classroom as well as at home.

Murray responded to this interest by training teachers across the district on how to use Panopto. Soon teachers from all six schools were using the lecture capture solution in ways Murray's team never had imagined.

Cornwall-Lebanon School District

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— **Jason Murray,** Technology Coordinator, Cornwall-Lebanon School District

One innovative use included a high school speech class where students recorded in-class speeches to help improve their public speaking skills.

"Students would read sentences, go back and listen to the recording, and find places where they heard a stutter or hesitation. Then students would note the timestamp where the hesitation was, along with the total time of the recording. After reviewing segments where they stuttered, students would re-record the session and try to reduce their overall time in order to make the speech more and more fluent," said Murray.

In the primary grades, Panopto's one-click recording capabilities made it easy for young students to create recordings on their own without teacher supervision. This allowed students to record presentations of projects independently as they rotated through different activity stations, where one station would be set up with Panopto and other stations would include tasks designed to meet additional objectives.

By freeing teachers from listening to live presentations, instructors could concentrate more on helping students in other group stations through guided practice sessions, instead of putting new material on hold for days while students presented projects. With this system, teachers could listen to student recordings and grade the presentations after class to help maximize students' time in the classroom.

This process helped students build autonomy while carving out more time for teachers to help students master key objectives. It also added an element of fun to the day as students looked forward to watching themselves "on TV."

"In the elementary schools, teachers have used Panopto to have students act out skits, recite poems, create advertisements that they show on classroom televisions and more. Panopto has really grabbed elementary kids strongly," said Murray.

Panopto also has been very popular among parents, who enjoy viewing recorded lessons and student presentations online. Panopto gives parents a window into the classroom and helps parents reinforce new skills, as parents can now watch classroom videos with their children to help them improve their performance and master new objectives.

And the uses for Panopto have not stopped within the classroom. Faculty members unable to attend open house nights have used Panopto to broadcast virtual sessions to parents, and the school psychologist and nurse have created a series of health videos on timely subjects such as how to cough properly to limit the spread of viruses such as H1N1. Even the school superintendent has gotten involved.

"The superintendent currently is using Panopto for his online welcome address on the district website. He has created videos that we've put up that provide people with valuable information about the district," said Murray.

Building a Virtual Academy

With more than 55 teachers currently using Panopto, the technology originally procured to ease the IT workload has morphed into a valuable tool for faculty members, teachers, students and parents to interact and learn within the Cornwall-Lebanon community.

Wanting to foster this growth, the district has developed plans to increase the reach of Panopto among high school and middle school students through a program called Virtual Academy. This program will bring open-source course management system Moodle to the district so that secondary school teachers can record classroom material and post it online for students to access on-demand. The Academy also will provide students with a place to turn in recorded projects and assignments that use Panopto.

Since Panopto integrates directly to Moodle, teachers will be able to create and upload recordings to personal course Web sites instantly, without any intervention or setup time. This ease of use has led to dozens of teachers expressing interest in using Virtual Academy once it is launched. Adding to this interest is Panopto's comprehensive suite of advanced features that include the ability to automatically recognize any recording device and remember saved recording settings, as well as its iTunes capabilities.

Murray notes that, "With Panopto, users can automatically download Panopto videos to iTunes as podcasts. This is great for the Virtual Academy since a large majority of students use collection sites like iTunes and will now be able to access this material instantly and watch it on-the-go through portable media devices."

With Virtual Academy set to increase Panopto's reach among students and faculty, Panopto is quickly becoming one of the most popular new technologies within the Cornwall School District. It enhances learning, helps extend class time, and provides parents with valuable feedback on student performance.

"Panopto is an excellent solution," said Murray. "I would definitely recommend it to any educational institution. There is nothing else like it out there."

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