



Profiles of Technology
IN TENNESSEE

GradeCam saves Dayton teachers time

Name: Dayton City School

Internet:

www.daytoncity.net

Products/Services:

Computerized grading system

Location:

Dayton/Rhea County

Innovative Insight: *"It's something I wish we had a long time ago. It makes all of our grading so much simpler. Things that used to take me an hour to grade take me 20 minutes, tops."*

The Importance of

Technology: *"It was invented to address the paperwork load, but once I had it in my classroom I found it was also a phenomenal teaching tool."*

The Future: *"I'm planning on getting more group activities together because we're going to start doing small groups," she said. "I was actually able to work on that this week, and before I never would have had time to work on that."*

Cleveland, TN – Most teachers at Dayton City School this year have been able to spend more time teaching and less time grading. A computer program known as GradeCam grades students' tests and records the results, saving teachers time and allowing them to better evaluate students' understanding of material.

"If it saves teachers time and they can spend more time working with students ... it's great," said Dayton City School Superintendent Richard Fisher.

The system is in all third through eighth-grade classrooms at Dayton City School. Each GradeCam costs about \$90, and the school system has 35, about \$3,150 worth.

"We feel like anytime we can free the teachers up to work with students it's worth it," Mr. Fisher said. "We feel like we're giving teachers more time to teach, at a very reasonable price."

Janna Rios, a fifth-grade teacher at Dayton City School, said the GradeCam has given her more time to work on things other than grading papers.

"It's something I wish we had a long time ago. It makes all of our grading so much simpler. Things that used to take me an hour to grade take me 20 minutes tops," she said.

School technology coordinator Matt Marcus said the program is "super simple" for the teachers to learn. "I've been impressed by the way teachers have taken the bull by the horns. ... They're just diving in and doing it," he said. "And the kids think it's fun, too," he added. "They think it's more fun to bubble in the test than to circle answers."

Tami Porter, executive vice president and chief operations officer of GradeCam Corp., said the device grew out of her and other teachers' classroom experience. She said roughly 2,500 schools in the United States have adopted the GradeCam system. "It's hard for people to understand how many pieces of paper are coming at teachers every day and parents have very high expectations for those pieces of paper, which I can understand as a parent," she said.

Ms. Porter said her son, Robert, now chief technology officer at GradeCam Corp., was 16 when he began to develop the product. "It was invented to address the paperwork load, but once I had it in my classroom I found it was also a phenomenal teaching tool," Ms. Porter said. "I think more than anything, it told me when what I was doing was working and when it wasn't."

According to Mr. Fisher, teachers also save more time because the GradeCam allows them to save the assignments and use them year after year.

Ms. Rios said she is running ahead of schedule because she spends less time grading papers. "I'm planning on getting more group activities together because we're going to start doing small groups," she said. "I was actually able to work on that this week, and before I never would have had time to work on that."

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