



## Kids Excited to Take Tests? What Technology Has Done for One Middle Tennessee School

**Name:**

Stewart's Creek Elementary School

**Internet:**

[www.sce.rcs.k12.tn.us](http://www.sce.rcs.k12.tn.us)

**Technology Tools:**

Classroom Performance System clickers, computers, interactive websites

**Location:**

Smyrna/Rutherford County

**Leadership:**

Jackie Elam, Rutherford County Elementary Instructional Technology Specialist

**Innovative Insight:** *"We're teaching kids that they can be continuous learners. These tools are really helping to put each child on their own individualized learning path."*

**The Impact of Broadband:**

*"We're taking the art of teaching and turning it into a science. These technology tools are allowing our schools to go global."*

**Feedback from the Students:**

*"Students are excited to take tests now. They come in every day asking their teachers, 'Are we taking a test today?'"*

**Smyrna, TN** - At Stewart's Creek Elementary School in Smyrna, you won't catch kids lining up to sharpen their pencil or borrow a piece of paper before a big test. That's because the number two pencil has been replaced by something called a Classroom Performance System (CPS) "clicker," a wireless response system that allows students to communicate with teachers using a handheld response pad.

With the CPS system, teachers can generate tests and worksheets, capture student responses, track progress, and view results by class, question or learning objective. The system has proven to be such a success that Rutherford County has purchased one for every school in the district. And according to Rutherford County's Elementary Instructional Technology Specialist, Jackie Elam, the CPS clickers are having quite an unusual effect on students.

"Students are excited to take tests now," says Elam. "They come in every day asking their teachers, 'Are we taking a test today?'"

The CPS system has also proven to enhance the academic achievement of their students. Elam says it's because when the students feel engaged, it keeps them motivated. "We're teaching kids that they can be continuous learners," she says. "These tools are really helping to put each child on their own individualized learning path."

Stewart's Creek is also leading the pack in high-tech educational tools. Every classroom is equipped with a ceiling-mounted projector, remote mouse, iPod, and at least one computer for every five students. Every teacher creates their own web page, and every textbook has a corresponding interactive website. "We're putting learning into the students' hands," says Elam. "Teachers are able to become true facilitators, as they are meant to be."

Just recently, Stewart's Creek welcomed dozens of teachers from all over the country for a tour of their technologically-advanced classrooms, and the response was overwhelming.

One person who was not surprised by the positive feedback? Jackie Elam. In her opinion, the tools are paving the way to the future for Rutherford County students. "We're taking the art of teaching and turning it into a science," she says. "These technology tools are allowing our schools to go global."

**About TN 95:**

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