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CyberSpaces

The 21st Century Classroom, Helps Transform An Aging School Into A Leader In Cutting Edge Technology



Left: *School Technology Specialist, Eva Glasgow (left) and Principal, Lisa Harvin (right), both from Mt. Washington Elementary (inset/left), are leading the way in turning their aging school into a technology-enabled learning community.*

Right: *"Making do"... A tiny make-shift computer classroom in Mt. Washington's cramped library.*

Faced with the traditional obstacles of expansion, Mt. Washington Elementary School in Maryland was the perfect location for an innovative education solution capable of making any learning environment high-tech. Built before the first man landed on the moon and lacking in space to expand, this elementary school was in need of a wireless, modular technology-enabled classroom.

Located in Northwest Baltimore, Mt. Washington Elementary currently serves approximately 300 students in grades Kindergarten through Fifth. The school continues to grow, and so do its needs, particularly in the area of technology. Budget constraints have slowed their progress and a make-shift technology classroom located in the middle of their school library is all they currently have to support the growing computing needs of their student body.

Now with the help of Williams Scotsman and Dell, schools will be able to lease or purchase a modular turn-key "space and technology solution", CyberSpaces, the 21st Century Classroom.

Mt. Washington is the location of the inaugural CyberSpaces Classroom. School officials were pleasantly surprised to find their need to locate the classroom several hundred feet from the main school did not present a problem. Williams Scotsman has provided more than 700 square feet of classroom space, computer workstations for 28 students and one teacher, an upgraded lighting package, wireless security system with a panic feature and more. Dell has included 29 of their latest C-510 Notebook computers linked with the school's network via wireless technology, and an array of software and peripherals.

The unit will be on site at the end of August 2002 and will help them meet their needs for the upcoming school year. The CyberSpaces unit will benefit other members of the Mt. Washington community with adult education classes, which will be held after hours. CyberSpaces has taken the school from a position of struggling to meet the technology demands of their students, to a school on the leading edge of technology. ■

21st CENTURY CLASSROOM