

On the Air

Ten-year-olds anchor the news on playground rules and dress code divas



"These guys don't sweat," said Daun Korkow, Super 6 Daily News director and program coordinator at Gilbert Elementary School in Las Vegas. He's referring to his fourth and fifth grade anchors who broadcast real news every school day, assisted by colleagues in grade three, and often pursuing interviews among first graders.

Gilbert, a magnet school for 144 students in grades one through five, targets communications and creative arts, using a sophisticated, yet simple set of equipment to help a highly motivated group of kids produce a children's version of a professional newscast every day.

"It's a real studio and a real news attitude, reporting on national, community, and school news," says Korkow. All fifth graders must write a script. Sixteen fourth and fifth graders rotate through anchor positions; grade five will mentor grade four so they don't get embarrassed and make mistakes. Second graders read the daily lunch menu, while newbies, the six-year-olds,

may capture airtime with insights such as "I like pizza." Those not on the air are handling cameras, switchers, lighting, and other equipment.

Everything starts at 8:20 a.m.; at 9:10 it's done.

"I can take clips and cut and paste," says Korkow. "The music teacher edits the music and the drama teacher has a piece called Backstage Secrets. We have a field crew in our rotation to go out and tape news."

A portable production studio from NewTek (TriCaster, a high-end, post-Web production studio) is used in a theater with stadium-style seating. Camera and video connections are hard-wired all around. Virtual sets are used during programming. A sofa in the studio area is ready for guests, who, in Las Vegas, range from costumers to singers to magicians and the occasional celebrity.

Eighteen schools in the district use broadcasting products. "Five or ten schools a year come to us," says Korkow. "We like to think ours is the best."

Must Reads

Web2.0 New Tools, New Schools

Gwen Solomon and Lynne Schrum
www.iste.org/newtoo, 800-336-5191

A comprehensive overview of the emerging Web 2.0 classroom. Topics include blogging, wikis, podcasting, and how to use Web 2.0 tools for professional development

Bullying Beyond the Schoolyard: Preventing and Responding to Cyberbullying

Sameer Hinduja and Justin W. Patchin
www.corwinpress.com, 800-233-9936

A comprehensive guide to identify, prevent, and respond to this increasingly serious problem. The book includes personal stories of youth affected by cyberbullying, an overview of terminology and legal issues, and a clear explanation of the scope of online aggression among youth.

Digital Citizenship: The Internet, Society, and Participation

By Karen Mossberger, Caroline J. Tolbert, and Ramona S. McNeal
mitpress.mit.edu, 800-405-1619

The authors find that internet use at work increases wages, with less-educated and minority workers receiving the greatest benefit, and that internet use is significantly related to political participation, especially among the young. The authors examine in detail the gaps in technological access among minorities and the poor.