

Secondary Social Studies

Digital Content, Not the
Devices, Drives Student
Achievement

Content provided by:



SECONDARY SOCIAL STUDIES

Digital Content
Not Devices
Drives Student Achievement



ROCK HILL SCHOOLS DIGITAL JOURNEY

- Dr. Harriet Jaworowski, Associate Superintendent, Instruction and Accountability
- Queenie Hall, ELA and Social Studies Instructional Specialist
- Moderator: Aggie Alvez, Discovery Education



ROCK HILL SCHOOLS DIGITAL EDUCATION AND STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

EdWeek Webinar

October 23, 2014

ROCK HILL SCHOOLS

- 17,500 students
 - 13% of students have IEPs
 - 58% poverty (20 point increase in 10 years)
 - 1200 ESOL students speaking 25 different languages
 - Urban district just south of Charlotte, NC
-

ROCK HILL SCHOOLS

- 28 schools – 9 Schools of Choice
 - Arts, STEAM, Language Immersion, Montessori, Accelerated Studies, IB
 - Three high schools
 - 1100 graduates earned \$33M in scholarships
 - State championship sports, arts, and journalism
-

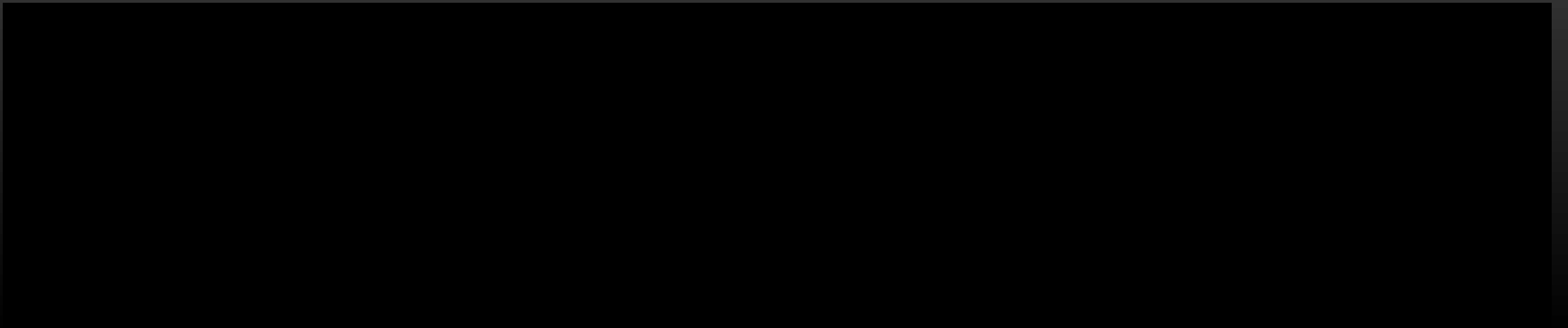
ROCK HILL'S JOURNEY

District Mission

To provide all students with challenging work that authentically engages them in the learning process and prepares them for successful futures.

ROCK HILL'S JOURNEY

- Making the decision for digital
 - Making the case for digital
 - Education Foundation
 - Garnered \$250K for technology initiative
 - Rallied local business and industry, Chamber of Commerce and the City
 - Student Voices and iRock
-



ROCK HILL'S JOURNEY

- Began with devices
 - Searched for digital content
 - Started with Science Techbook
 - Purposeful planning
-

PILOT 2012-2013

- Teacher voluntary commitment – elementary, middle, and high
 - Professional development
 - Challenge Based Learning (CBL)
 - Pilot of Discovery Education Science Techbook spring semester in designated classrooms
 - Beta test of Social Studies in Grades 6-8 and World Geography in high school
-

SCIENCE OUTCOMES 2013

- 21% of students in high user classrooms scored Exemplary on the Science Palmetto Assessment of State Standards compared to 15% in non-user classrooms
- Techbook was available from March to May only

EXPANSION 2013-2014

- All teachers and students - Grades 4-8
 - Professional development – iRock Camp
 - Expanded use of Discovery Education Techbooks
 - Science Grades 3-8
 - Social Studies Grades 6-8
 - High School World Geography, U.S. History, and Biology
-

SCIENCE OUTCOMES 2014

Grade 4 students of high users of Discovery Education Science Techbook:

- Demonstrated growth while the mean scores of low/non-users declined
- Demonstrated growth, despite overall district decline in mean student scores

SOCIAL STUDIES STORY

Background

- Historically a strength in the district in Grades 3-8
- New courses in high school in need of instructional resources

SOCIAL STUDIES STORY

Spring and Summer 2013

- Began World History Techbook beta in Grade 6
 - Purchased World Geography Techbook for new Grade 9 course
-

SOCIAL STUDIES STORY

Spring and Summer 2013

- Professional development
 - Standards alignment to World Geography Techbook
-

SOCIAL STUDIES STORY

Fall 2013

- Purchased World History Techbook for Grade 6
 - Professional development for Grade 6 and 9 teachers
-

SOCIAL STUDIES STORY

2013-2014

- Began beta for U.S. History – primarily for Grade 11.
 - Grade 8 teachers have found it useful although 8th grade focuses on state history more than U.S. History
-

SOCIAL STUDIES STORY

Teacher buy-in and capacity building are KEY.

- Initial teacher concerns and challenges.
 - Steps to make digital less daunting.
 - Ongoing professional development is critical.
-

SOCIAL STUDIES STORY

Additional Professional Development for Teachers

- Engage and Explore Our World Through Discovery Education, March 2013
 - Maximizing Student Engagement with Board Builder, October 2013
 - Read, Write, and Think Like a Historian, November 2013
-

SOCIAL STUDIES STORY

What teachers are saying:

“The Discovery Education Social Studies Techbook has helped improve student understanding and mastery of the content in my classroom through the techbook itself and the many supplementary resources that are included.”

Chris Chandler, U.S. History

SOCIAL STUDIES STORY

What teachers are saying:

“I love it. It provides me the opportunity to deliver the same content in different formats based on the ability level of my students.”

Jason Winstead, World Geography

SOCIAL STUDIES STORY

What teachers are saying:

“The Discovery Education Techbook Is an exciting tool to use in the classroom. It allows students to become actively engaged in classroom activities in ways that appeal to them in the modern world.”

Michelle Goodman, Eighth Grade Social Studies

SOCIAL STUDIES STORY

What teachers are saying:

“Discovery Education allows teachers to individualize student instruction. One of my favorite features is having students watch a video clip individually on their iPads, and then having them respond in a group discussion either online or in class. This makes the students responsible for their own learning.”

Sara Sconyers, Sixth Grade Social Studies

SOCIAL STUDIES STORY

What teachers are saying:

"The entire planning process is much more streamlined which allows me to spend more time teaching and interacting with my students."

Cody Strong, World Geography

SOCIAL STUDIES STORY

What students are saying:

“The Techbook is easy for me to understand. You can read, listen, and watch videos. I really like it.”

Chloe, 6th Grade

“It is very cool because it gives citations and you can credit the person who found the information.”

Emma, 6th Grade

SOCIAL STUDIES STORY

What students are saying:

“I like the interactive maps in the World Geography Textbook. I also like that I can switch between English and Spanish. It helps me understand the material so much easier.”

Alex, 9th Grade

SOCIAL STUDIES STORY

Key Benefits

- Strengthened literacy and critical thinking skills
 - Saved teachers time in planning and delivering lessons
 - Increased student interest and engagement
-

SOCIAL STUDIES STORY

Looking Ahead

GOING DIGITAL: TOP 7 LESSONS

1. Establish the rationale up front
 2. Know your own environment.
 3. Do your homework.
 4. Build support from the top down and bottom up.
-

GOING DIGITAL: TOP 7 LESSONS

5. Give teachers TIME – to plan, to participate in professional development, to understand device and content.
 6. Designate a project manager with strong instruction background.
 7. Collaborate with a partner who can help you every step of the way.
-

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT SOCIAL STUDIES TECHBOOK

- www.discoveryeducation.com/sstechbook