



## A Technology Model: Farnsley Middle School

Dynamic educators paved the way for Kentucky to bring video-on-demand into the classroom.

Farnsley Middle School in Louisville subscribed to Discovery Education *unitedstreaming* a year before the Commonwealth of Kentucky began receiving it through Kentucky Educational Television. Being first presented challenges initially, but the school has since become a leader on classroom technology in its school district and beyond.

The school's library media specialist was the first educator at the school to embrace *unitedstreaming*. She in turn introduced it to Deborah Schweitzer, the school technology coordinator and also an adjunct faculty member at Indiana University Southeast (IUS), who demonstrated this digital video-based learning resource to her colleagues at a faculty meeting.

### A Group Opportunity for Creativity

Once the teachers began using *unitedstreaming*, they exchanged ideas with one another about different ways to use video-on-demand. One teacher would ask, "Did you know that you can edit these videos?" Another would point out that the videos can be incorporated into PowerPoint presentations. Yet another would suggest, "Why don't we make a Hollywood Squares-type game in PowerPoint, with a video linked to each celebrity square?" This group brainstorming resulted in many creative educational games for the students to enjoy. Schweitzer, along with her master's degree students at IUS, have even created a Jeopardy!-style game with a *unitedstreaming* video embedded in each answer.

The service has found as many practical and imaginative uses as there are educators at the school. The music teacher at Farnsley plays videos for his band students, demonstrating how their instruments should sound when played correctly. The assistant principal even shows anti-bullying videos to students that are sent to his office for fighting.

Besides finding that *unitedstreaming* video segments are great resources for engaging students in the day's lesson, teachers have also employed the service in reinforcing those lessons to prepare students for the Commonwealth Accountability Testing System (CATS) assessment tests, including the Kentucky Core Content Test. (Discovery Education *unitedstreaming* is the only standards-based video-on-demand application shown to increase student achievement.)



Teachers also share videos with one another through their playlists, thus reducing their individual class-preparation time.

## Leading by Example

The Jefferson County School District is made up of about 130 schools. In the year after Kentucky received commonwealth-wide access to *unitedstreaming*, it helped immeasurably that Farnsley Middle School had already been so successful using the service.

Limited bandwidth was one of the technology hurdles the district's schools faced. The solution was network managers. At first, each school had its own. Later, as some schools installed a fiber connection, about half of the network managers were de-activated. The district also recently installed a local host server, so that their schools would not need to use the Internet to access *unitedstreaming*.

Jefferson County schools also had to deal with outdated software on their computers, which made it difficult to view the videos. The Library Media Services Department persevered in fixing the problem, and as a result teacher usage of *unitedstreaming* continues to grow.

The successful integration of *unitedstreaming* at Farnsley Middle School served as a shining example of the reward that awaited all of the district's schools at the end of the technology tunnel: The power of digital media to enhance the classroom experience.

**Please contact 800.323.9084 or [support@unitedstreaming.com](mailto:support@unitedstreaming.com) with questions about this case study or any other matter.**