Multimedia Science Program Builds Achievement in Science at PS118, Queens. NY.

The ScanTEK Science lab at PS118

"This is a wonderful investment for our children, if every school in America had this, our science and technology achievement would be so much greater". That is how Mrs Buchanan, Assistant Principal of Public School 118, Queens, New York, introduced their science program.

At PS118 there is a multimedia, elementary science program that is helping students gain real success in science. It has been created to work across our 1-4th grade years and it compliments the science taught in the home rooms.

An interesting combination of animated computer aided learning materials and hands-on activities help students of all abilities develop their skills and interest in science. A range of modules are installed around the room which has a network of computers that are used to deliver the animated learning materials and track student progress.

The learning material is specifically aligned with the New York science standards and built in testing and assessment is helping students gain success in the 4th grade science tests.

"We really like our science lab, it's cool"

Students working in the ScanTEK science lab really enjoy the experience, there is so much information contained in the modules and so many exciting experiments that they don't realize that they are learning science.

Talking to the junior scientists in a 3rd grade class it is very evident that they are enjoying their science lessons and are learning a lot at the same time.

"To make light, you need some cords, a power pack, a lamp and a switch. When you connect the lamp to the power pack and the switch you get a circuit. When you close the switch; the lamp comes on. That's because electricity flows around the circuit and you get light."

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"I really enjoy working in the lab, because the ScanTEK system is so comprehensive."

Lori D'Iorio is the teacher who runs the science lab, the majority of the time she has with each class is spent working with individual student groups.

"I really enjoy working in the lab, because the ScanTEK system is so comprehensive. I don't need to do a lot of preparation and planning. I can spend much more of my time working with individual students.

Without a system like this, I would not be as aware of the concepts they grasp if I had to deliver all my lessons from the front of the class.

Because the learning is delivered and managed by the computers, I can move freely around the groups checking on their understanding and helping out where they are having problems".

According to the principal of PS118, Adele Armstrong, the science lab is a major asset and is contributing to the growing success that the school is achieving in the New York State standardized science tests at 4th grade.

"It is addressing the state testing and I am in full favour of anything that increases test scores and Living with Science does just that".

The PS118 Science Program is just one of the successful programs installed in NY City by our representatives – RJT Educational.

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