



Kennedy Middle School Presents

VTAH

Virtual Tutoring At Home



Why Did We Create VTAH?

- It allows students to connect outside of the traditional classroom setting with their own teachers.
- It allows for the “blended model” of education where students attend traditional school during the day provided by enhancement via technology during the evening hours.
- KMS hired a teacher that received extensive training with educating online and taught with the country’s largest virtual school.
- Teacher brought ideas of how to create blended learning to BCS.



Most parents wonder...

- How to get their student to school early or pick them up late?
- Where the money is going to come from to pay for the local tutoring agency?
- How they can stay in better contact with their student's teachers?
- How to get their student extra help on assignments he/she doesn't understand?



Parents need not worry anymore!

- Kennedy Middle School, in partnership with BPS Educational Technology (in particular Steve Muzzy, Matt Frey and Tamara Rutenber) is piloting a program never before used in Brevard Schools.
- An introduction to Wimba was provided to all parents and students of KMS the week before sessions started. A question and answer session followed each presentation. Students were aware that they needed to have an active Edline account to participate.
- A letter was sent home to parents about the new program.



What Parents and Students Received

- We post a monthly calendar on Edline that contains a schedule of the sessions that will be offered on a nightly basis.
- Two sessions are offered every night, Monday through Thursday.
- The first content specific session started on Monday, February 1, 2010.

Benefits of VTAH via Wimba

- Allows for the student that is not comfortable in asking questions in traditional classroom to do so online.
- Keeps students connected with their own teachers and receive same information online as they do in traditional classroom setting.

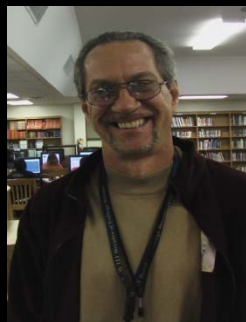
Benefits continued

- Students function and learn in a world familiar to them.
- Great use of current technology.
- Supports the use of Edline.
- It eliminates transportation problems.
- It allows the parent to watch and interact.
- It gives learning the comforts of home.
- We can archive sessions.

Example of calendar with sessions that are offered found on Edline

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	
28	1 7:00 PM Math Wimba Session McDonald 8:00 PM Social Studies Session McGlothlin	2 7:00 PM Science Tutoring Session Levy 8:00 PM Math Wimba Session Pinnick	3 7:00 PM Spanish Tutoring For KMS student Nicaragua 8:00 PM Math Wimba Session Edwards	4 7:00 PM Language Arts Session Sweeney 8:00 PM Math Session Alderman Edwards	5	6
7	8 7:00 PM Math Wimba Session McDonald 8:00 PM Social Studies Session Van Ess	9 8:00 PM Math Wimba Session Pinnick 9:00 PM Science Tutoring Session ~ Mrs. Krell	10 7:00 PM Spanish Tutoring For KMS student 8:00 PM Math Wimba Session Edwards	11 7:00 PM Language Arts Session - Herrman 8:00 PM Math Session Alderman	12	13
14	15 7:00 PM Math Wimba Session McDonald 8:00 PM Social Studies Session McGlothlin	16 7:00 PM Science Tutoring Session Newman 8:00 PM Math Wimba Session Pinnick	17 7:00 PM Spanish Tutoring For KMS student 8:00 PM Math Wimba Session Edwards	18 7:00 PM Language Arts Session Tyre 8:00 PM Math Session Alderman	19	20
21	22 7:00 PM Math Wimba Session McDonald 8:00 PM Social Studies Session Van Ess	23 7:00 PM Science Tutoring Session Levy 8:00 PM Math Wimba Session Pinnick	24 7:00 PM Spanish Tutoring For KMS student 8:00 PM Math Wimba Session Edwards	25 7:00 PM Language Arts Session - Sweeney 8:00 PM Math Session Alderman	26	27

Innovative teachers at KMS that have moved into the 21st century using technology to enhance student learning



Teachers Who Participated

- Volunteered to participate in the pilot program.
- Received training on Wimba in January 2010.
- Received compensation.
- Sessions are used for various purposes.



Using Blended Education to Extend the Classroom

- With Wimba Classroom, learners have access to teachers, courses, and content available beyond the boundaries of the traditional classroom door. Ex. Elementary Educators
- By bringing a wide variety of content into the Wimba classroom using application sharing or the whiteboard, teachers can enrich and enhance learning objectives.
- Allows for immediate feedback.



Teachers can communicate with the participants

- Can be done any time of day.
- From home or at work...for teacher and the student and parent.
- Questions can be answered verbally and on the whiteboard.
- Moderator privileges can be given to the student.
- Interaction on the whiteboard can be done by both student and teacher.



What's next at KMS

- Peer or professional tutoring.
- Staff meetings.
- Virtual science labs to prepare for science fair.
- Educating via breakout rooms for students that have been absent from school or for small group assignments or make up testing of students who were absent.
- Virtual office hours so parents/students can meet with their teacher.
- Professional development .
- School wide parent information sessions.
- Work to provide computer and internet access to those students/and or teachers who do not have it.



Lessons Learned

- Before implementing program have a vision for where you want to go.
- There was significant support for this program from District Leadership.
- Make sure the teachers are fully trained before teaching online. There are many unfamiliar tools that are incorporated into the “new” classroom.
- Frequently get feedback to improve the program
- A year long program will take additional sources of money.







We'll leave you with this thought:

- Any solution that can motivate learning, enhance involvement, and promote teamwork with students, faculty and staff adds a remarkable value to a school district.
- Blended learning using VTAH at Kennedy Middle School is a great enhancement to the curriculum being taught in the traditional school setting.