

KAN-ED ANNUAL
EVALUATION REPORT
JUNE 2009



KAN-ED
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WHERE KANSANS
ACCESS THE
INFORMATION AGE

Paola USD 368

Serves:

2,050+ students,

160+ educators

**Kan-ed member since:
September 15, 2003**

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Desktop Provides “World of Information” at Students’ Fingertips

Sunflower Elementary’s Library Media Specialist and teacher, Rena Smith, is excited about all the Empowered Desktop has to offer Paola USD 368.

“My budget is so small that I would not be able to have access to the databases the Desktop offers. The really neat thing is that students can use it not only from school, but they can use it anywhere that they have Internet access. That gives them a world of information at their fingertips. All you have to do is introduce it to them, teach them how to use some of the applications, and they use it.”

One story that Smith shared is how the fifth grade students use the Desktop for a research project each year. As she explained, “We do what we call an author study where they have to pick an author that we have here in the library, research biographical information on that author, read a book by that author, and do a little review and analysis.” Students answer questions about whether they liked the book, why they liked it, and if they have read anything else by the author.

Next, students prepare a PowerPoint presentation explaining what they have learned about the author they chose and present it to the class. “We use the Backpack feature on the Desktop to save our PowerPoint presentations, so if they want to work on it at home they can. They’re learning two things; they’re learning how to do a PowerPoint, but they’re also learning how to use the Backpack,” Smith said.

One way Smith gauges impact is by whether students are talking about the Desktop. “I can tell you about a couple of students that, when the Desktop was introduced, couldn’t believe it and were very excited. I tell the students, ‘Now as long as you’re here at Sunflower, this is yours to use. You can use it at night, you can use it on the weekend, you can use it during the summer as long as you’re a Sunflower student. But when you leave me as a 5th grader, I take you off of my Desktop and you get shuffled off to the middle school.’ When they got to be 5th graders and it came toward the end of the year, they said ‘Miss Smith, how soon are you going to take us off of Kan-ed?’ So, that tells me that they are using it and that they value that service.”

Smith summed it up by saying, “I would be a very, very upset, very, very sad person if we didn’t have the Desktop. Learning to search and evaluate sources is so important for our kids today because they’re bombarded with information, and you want them to learn how to get good information.”

