

## Desktop Backpack Feature Increases Student Productivity

Regina Hansen of Udall USD 463's High School Learning Center just began using the Kan-ed Empowered Desktop during the past school year, but she has plenty of positive comments to share about it. She stated, "My main usage is the Backpack feature and teacher pages. I run an alternative school and teach freshman and seniors in our high school here at Udall. Two years ago we went to one-on-one laptops, and the Empowered Desktop has been great in expanding our teaching techniques."



Hansen described that her use of the Desktop Backpack application has allowed her to become almost paperless. The Backpack is an application where students have the ability to save papers that they are working on at school in an online "backpack," or file management system, so they can access them after school hours to continue working on them. She shared, "I am able to download worksheets and videos for my students, and they are able to send me their homework assignments. This is particularly useful when the student is gone for an activity or home sick. I also use the teacher pages to post my daily assignments. This is great for the students and also for the parents. I keep five days on the schedule at a time so everyone knows what is going on."



She continued to share that the Backpack and teacher pages were extremely useful to her this last winter when she had to be away from school longer than expected for medical reasons. She remarked, "My students knew the daily assignments and had no excuse for not completing them. It was also less stressful for the substitute. The students had the responsibility of going to Kan-ed and seeing what they needed to do for the day." In this way, days can still be productive even when teachers cannot be in the classroom.

Hansen expects to expand her use of the Backpack feature in the coming years. "Now that I am getting more familiar with the program, I am hoping to use it more in the alternative school for research, homework, and daily announcements. This has been a valuable teaching tool, and it will become even more valuable for me as I learn more. Kan-ed is greatly needed and deeply appreciated," she concluded.

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