

NEWS

The Greater St. Charles Education Foundation Donates Technology Carts to District 303 Schools □

\$70,000 grant provides a mobile presentation cart to each school

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The Greater St. Charles Education Foundation is pleased to announce the donation of more than \$70,000 to equip each school in District 303 with a state of the art mobile presentation cart.

This fall each of the 12 elementary schools in the district will receive a cart that contains the latest in multimedia technology, including a document camera, wireless laptop computer, LCD projector, VCR/DVR player and speakers. The carts have been purchased with funds accumulated over several years. The Foundation has also committed to purchase five more media carts over the next two years to give to the District's three middle schools and two high schools.

“This integrated system provides students, teachers and administrators with all the latest in portable presentation technology in a secure mobile workstation,” said Bob Walters, Co-President of the Education Foundation, “To maximize usage the cart is designed to roll easily from classroom to classroom.

The carts many versatile features allow for a wide variety of student and teacher presentations in classrooms, labs, or assembly programs. An ELMO document camera is designed to display documents and 3-D objects onto a screen, television, projector or monitor, and it can also display small objects such as insects, flowers, leaves, coins and watches. A zoom lens can clearly display items as small as the date on a dime.

The advanced features of the cart make it an effective teaching tool that improves classroom instruction. For example, a science teacher can use the document camera and LCD projector to demonstrate a dissection to the classroom, while digitally recording the event for future classroom use or to make available to students who may have missed the lecture over the Internet via Blackboard.

With the wireless laptop, the cart can be used for presentations or connected to the Internet to affect teaching methods and learning experiences. The wireless technology expands the access for students and teachers to web-based and network-based resources.

John Reichling, D303's Chief Information Officer, helped the Education Foundation select the integrated technology features of the cart. Reichling and computer specialist, Seth Kussmaul, developed a cart that insured compliance with the District's technology procurement standards, and implemented a comprehensive training program to make certain that teachers and staff are able to fully utilize the technology in the classroom.

"The Education Foundation appreciates the support from the district's department of Information Technology Services," said Walters, "We would also like to thank the community and local businesses whose contributions and donations to the Education Foundation have made this gift to District 303 possible". □

DSC 0007 JPG: To teach a lesson on crayfish anatomy and behavior, Jill Murphy, fifth-grade teacher at Wild Rose Elementary School, uses the Elmo Document camera feature on the school's new multimedia cart, donated by The Greater St. Charles Education Foundation.

DSC 0021 JPG: Fifth-graders Samantha Henry and Danielle Stewart use Wild Rose Elementary School's new multi-media cart to present a "book talk" to classmates. An ELMO document camera allows the book to be projected in color on a screen for the entire class to see. A zoom lens lets the students highlight specific words or pictures.