

St. Sebastian School—Woodside, NY

“An Administrator Rolls Up Her Sleeves and Sets a New Directive”

There’s no substitute for first-hand experience. If you want to know the challenges a teacher encounters when trying to become proficient with using a new instructional tool, put yourself right on the line and join them in their workshop. That’s exactly what Jo Ann Dolan, the Principal of St. Sebastian School in Woodside, New York, did when she realized the enormous potential of using the Internet as an educational resource. By rolling up her sleeves and attending a session on BASCOM's Global Chalkboard, Mrs. Dolan started the positive momentum needed to guarantee the successful launch of this solution in her school.

Mrs. Dolan wanted all of her educators completely comfortable with using this new curriculum tool, so she committed to a full day of professional development; this enabled the workshops to be delivered to smaller groups, offering more individualized instruction. And, by actually making the time to personally participate in a session, Mrs. Dolan sent the directive that her staff will be adopting the Global Chalkboard as a new teaching tool. Consequently, educators embraced all aspects of the training workshops. This included using the Web Library—a portal of educational Web sites—and becoming proficient at building Web-enriched lessons using the Global Chalkboard’s Lesson Creator.

“The Global Chalkboard is a very valuable classroom tool. I like to be ‘in the loop’ when it comes to integrating technology and curriculum, so I attended the training.”

**-Jo Ann Dolan, Principal
St. Sebastian School**

“What I like best is that you can post your own lessons and access lessons created by other teachers as well.”

-Michelle Gianakos, Educator

“I feared I wasn’t ‘computer savvy’ enough, but now I’m confident that I can construct my own Global Chalkboard lessons.”

-Linda O’Brien, Educator

In addition to learning how to search for educational content, each teacher created a Web-based lesson using the Lesson Creator. This lesson was immediately available for students to use. Also, the teachers shared their work with other St. Sebastian educators.

There was such enthusiasm for the initial professional development that Mrs. Dolan arranged for additional sessions for the remainder of her staff. Setting aside time for this was difficult to arrange, but the pay-back is that her educators will make maximum use of the Global Chalkboard to integrate technology into curriculum. By being a forward thinker, Mrs. Dolan has situated St. Sebastian to reap the benefits of using the Global Chalkboard today and into the future.

Professional Development Model

Objective #1:

Set a strong directive that the Global Chalkboard will be used as an instructional tool in the classroom.

Solution:

Principal attends workshops for two reasons: to illustrate the importance of learning about this new tool and to fully comprehend its capabilities.

Objective #2:

Separate teaching staff into two groups—Advanced and Beginner/Intermediate—and deliver Professional Development separately so that it’s geared to the appropriate level of computer proficiency.

Solution:

BASCOM’s Education Specialist tailors the workshops to each level so teachers are given the appropriate amount of support. Also, the Computer Technologist attends both workshops to learn and to assist those teachers that need extra help.

Objective #3:

To instruct entire faculty on creating rubrics and incorporating them into a Global Chalkboard lesson.

Solution:

Introducing Rubrics into Lessons will instruct faculty on using rubrics as an additional component of their Global Chalkboard lessons. Teachers will build rubrics to consistently evaluate student performance. Students (and possibly parents) will benefit by knowing the expectations of the lesson. Rubrics also become a tool for testing the objectives of a lesson.