



The Insider



taking a look inside the National Middle School Associations' annual conference

21st Century Classroom allows students to use technology

Story by Molly Surette

The preparation for the 21st Century classroom took a lot of people and a lot of equipment. The total cost of the classroom was \$650,000.

"We didn't have to pay a dime," Al Summers, NMSA conference and convention coordinator, said. "Companies feel that this is an important cause and donated their services and supplies."

The classroom was originally built to be a school of the future. But when it was finished the makers realized it was very similar to certain present day schools like Clay Middle School, located in Carmel, IN.

As you walk into the 21st Century classroom, you're going to have to watch your step. This is because the classroom's floor is elevated.

Earl G. Geertgens III is a sponsor of the National Middle School Association. His company manufactured the floors of the 21st Century classroom.

"The floor is raised so that all of the cords are wires for the equipment can go underneath,"

in the classroom to make sure nothing went wrong with the boards.



Clay Middle School spent the day Thursday in the 21st Century Classroom.

Geertgens said.

Students aren't just watching their step, they are stepping into a new world with some of the technology they get to use. A while ago students had black boards in their classrooms. Most schools today have dry erase white boards. The 21st Century classroom has interactive white boards made by a company called Promethean and PolyVision. Paul Awtrey was working

outside of school without leaving school. Eric Sheets works with the company that has supplied the video conferencing technology.

"I think the classrooms will be like this in the near future. It depends on the school and how they embrace it. Some schools will embrace it right away and for others it may take 5 to 10 years," Sheets said.

People on the Streets

Beth Germann

- Hobart, IN
- Teaches Science
- She found out about NMSA through her school. She paid \$170 to be here for three days.
- She is looking forward to seeing some new ideas and achieving some better discipline in her classroom.

Kathy Sayre

- Louisville, KY
- She is a member of NMSA and she found out about the convention through the monthly school newsletter at her school.
- She is looking forward to learn what other teachers in the country are doing.

Bill Rutherford

- Grand Rapids, Michigan
- He learned about it through his company
- He is the spokesperson for a company that sells planners to help make students more organized and get their school work done more easily. Having a stand at the convention is the perfect way to spread the word about his company.



[Click here for What People got from NMSA](#)



[Click here for 21st Century Classroom](#)

Clay Middle School gets a day out of school to participate with the latest in educational technology

Story by Michael Bruns

NMSA is an international education association dedicated exclusively to the middle level grades. NMSA stands for National Middle School Association. This association works in a certain place each year for one weekend and creates a convention out of it. All of the participants are specifically chosen by the staff of their school. They get to stay here for a school day and work on certain things for their school.

Each student has certain assignments in the day.

Some people get to play the Wii and do other physical activities. There is also a video team that records a lot of fun stuff so we can remember it. They have been taken shots of people doing their activities throughout the day. The journalist team gets to go out of their area to go and interview people and learn about what they are doing and why they are doing it. They also get to write stories about this whole organization.

A man named Lou Warnychia is work-

ing at a booth for his company which is Cobblestone Publishing. He publishes different magazines for kids. Another man named Chuck Tyler was an architect for the classroom that the students work in.

Some things that were involved in building the classroom were that 45 industry partners provided materials, design expertise and labor. Brandon Opichleq was sent as a part of his leadership team from his school. He is from Cincinnati, Ohio. He wants to learn more about the 21st Century Skills for his school.

A woman named Allison was there to talk to teachers about programs that World-Strides offer. They are an educational service provider. Teachers sign up to do programs all over the world. The experience at NMSA is like no other. There are smart boards, lounge rooms, mini laptop notebooks, I-pod touches, cameras, computers, and more!

It is a great honor to be able to experience all of what NMSA offers to all who participate.



Bryan Alig, sixth grade teacher at Clay Middle School, and Ian Bossung, eighth grader, record students dressed in costume using a green screen.



Using the green screen, one of Clay's projects about Rome can actually look like it is in Rome.



The 21st Century Classroom was open to all the participants. Teachers from all over the country came into the classroom and talked to the Clay students and they answered all their questions. Some Clay students gave those teachers tours through the room.



Eric Wiegand and Rachel Dowley dress up in their Roman costumes to perform in front of the green screen.

Take a quick tour
of the 21st
Century Classroom
(click for video)

People on the Streets

Mark Smith

- Carmel, IN
- He is the assistant principal at Carmel Middle School.
- He learned about the convention through being a member of the National Middle School Principal's Association. He is a six year member.
- He is looking forward to hearing some neat speakers from around the country and learning cool new things to bring back to his school.

Sandy Woodcock

- Washington, DC
- Develops curriculum that uses newspaper as textbook (different aspects of school, teamwork, authentic writing)
- Teachers use newspaper
- Exhibitor
- Helps with ACT and SAT

Mark Jones

- Knoxville, Tennessee
- New things for 6th grade world history class
- Been before
- Looking for student engagement

Geoff Lorenz

- Dayton, Ohio
- Supplementary education material
- Exhibitor
- Customers

21st Century Classroom allows students to use technology

Story by Katie Brown

When you first enter the busy convention center one of the things you notice is the big signs hanging from the ceiling, the many free samples everywhere, and many simulations and new technology.

All the vendors this year are about school, ways to help schools, and ways to help teachers. So basically the vendors have the students in mind.

One vendor is run by Maya Beecha. The organization that she is promoting is called NYLC. This organization takes children out of the classroom and out into the community. By combining leadership skills, socializing skills, and things learned in the classroom, this organization comes up with projects. These projects help the community and help the students. This organization also provides classes and tutorials to teachers who can come up with their own proj-

ects. Another vendor out there is the one promoting tanbirg. This company makes TVs that are used for distance learning. These TVs allow two way communications.

Say that a class is learning

cot gear, teaching tips, and free materials. One of the teacher vendors is right at the entrance of the convention, it is huge and eye popping. You can't miss it. This vendor is for National Geographic. National Geographic didn't just have a vendor but they also helped sponsor the 36th NMSA convention. At this vendor the workers ask you what subject you teach then they give you a packet and a bunch of free books on your subject. This helps teachers by giving them new and excellent materials to help their students learn.

The vendors were there to showcase new technologies and teaching methods that would be helpful to middle schools.



about a country, for example Italy. If they had one of these TVs they could connect and actually talk to a classroom in Italy. This experience gives children advanced learning and probably an experience they have never had before.

More for the teachers, there are vendors that have mas-



Clay Middle School participates in the NMSA

by Dan Fu

Cassie Lee

Lesson on distance, rate, and time with air-traffic control
Using a flight simulator
"Neat convention"
"Cool vendors"
Other teacher's projects are interesting

Mark Weaver

Live science activities with microscopes that hooked up to laptops
Bird activities
Camera Binoculars
Live science activities went very well, room was packed with adults
Very pleased
Convention is a great opportunity
Very proud of other teachers, great amount of support

John Corcoran

Presenting polar heart rate monitors, Wii, and distance learning lab
Convention has a lot of neat things
Clay did a great job

Todd Stewart

Video announcements, video component to the Insider
Impressed by all the technology
Other teacher's presentations were interesting

Gus Leagre

Video
Filmed interviews, made introductions, and started editing
Convention pretty cool
Fishbowl doesn't look like a normal classroom

Rachel Patch

Was in Mr. Weaver's mitosis and Mrs. Gile's humanitarian

"I really like it (the convention)"

"It's really interesting (the convention)"

"Really cool and interesting"

Bryan Alig

Re-enacting Live from Rome, project to let kids learn about movies and ancient Rome
Amazing (convention)
So many resources in it, almost overwhelming
"Pretty unbelievable"
Other teachers are showing application of things

Jake Smith

Mr. Weaver's mitosis
Mr. Kenney's Federalist and Anti-Federalist
Convention is "pretty cool"
Fish bowl is a "smart idea"

Case Pasanen

Mr. Weaver, lunch, Mr. Alig and Ancient Civs
Convention is "really cool"
Fishbowl really cool

Rachel Dowley

Journalism, geography with Mr. Kenney
Live from Rome
Convention: really really neat, but the Fishbowl is only in a corner
Fishbowl: Kind of creepy at first, but then you get used to it

Katie Brown

Journalism, then Language Arts with Giles and Martin
Talked to Carmel High School about humanitarians
Convention: It's awesome
Fishbowl: doesn't feel like a fishbowl



Todd Stewart, who works the video announcements at Clay Middle School, with the help of his students, made two videos about the experiences Clay had at NMSA, as well as what NMSA is.



Evan Williams, journalism teacher, works with Molly Surette and Michael Bruns for The Insider. They also took photos, video and micro-blogged about the experiences.