HoverCam®

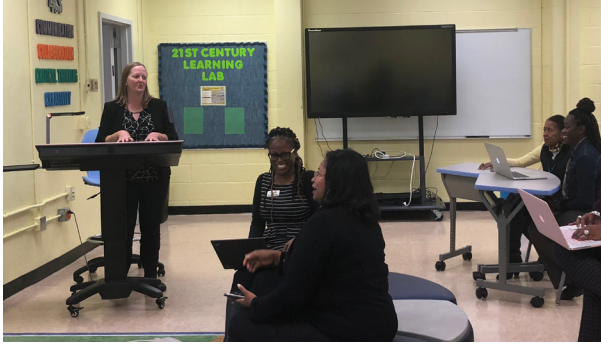# New Tech Culture Refreshes Curriculum for 21st Century Learners

HoverCam's Education Solutions Rise to Needs of Shelby County Students

Worksheets are a practical and common learning tool in the classroom. Students work through each problem, possibly guided by an answer bank to help them match up the solution to each question to the best of their knowledge before handing it in. The drawback is that they won't learn the correct answer until the teacher grades and hands back the worksheet.

"You're potentially teaching a kid the wrong way to do something first and that's what becomes ingrained," said Demetria Monix, Ph.D., Instructional Technology Manager for Shelby County Schools (SCS) in Memphis, Tennessee. "That's where technology comes in. It introduces an interactive piece where students can immediately get feedback and learn the right way first."

This is just one example of classroom learning that SCS is turning on its head. The district, which has more than 170 schools, is making it a priority to build a technology infrastructure that can sustain teaching

The Pilot digital teaching station allows teachers to effectively instruct kids in the digital age

and learning in the 21st century and that can support the digital space that students live in today. SCS sees technology as a new tool that can help educators achieve the districts' five priorities: strengthen early literacy, improve post-secondary readiness, develop teachers, leaders, and central office to drive student success, expand high quality school options, and mobilize family and community partners.

Built for the Future
A researcher at heart, Dr. Monix attended the annual ISTE conference to survey the latest innovations that she could bring to the district and incorporate into two new elementary schools. She knew that SCS was preparing to break ground and easily retrofit their existing schools, so HoverCam's digital education solutions caught her eye. Hover-Cam is founded on the belief that technology shouldn't overlook the role of the educator in the classroom, enabling a user-friendly experience with state-of-the-art capabilities, and that classrooms should work at the rapid computational speeds that students are learning at today in order to keep them engaged, building collaboration skills they'll need in their careers, and spur creativity.

Chief among HoverCam's education solutions is the award-winning Pilot mobile teaching station. Unlike anything else on the market, the HoverCam Pilot is likened to the bridge of the Enterprise spaceship for 21-century classrooms. It solves the operational and management hurdles that educators face when new devices are put in the classroom by combining the most important audio, video and digital content elements used in today's digital classrooms in a mobile podium. The design eliminates not only the outdated AV cart but also liberates teachers from stationary desks or lecterns. It integrates Windows PC, 13MP document camera, and 21-inch touchscreen with wireless HD mirroring functionality so any device content and touch annotations can be beamed to any interactive flat panel, projector, or TV in the room. The document camera in the Pilot also features a built-in microphone for capturing audio. Furthermore, it will run HoverCam's ClassFusion classroom management software, which has the ability to record entire lessons, along with interactive whiteboarding, annotation, and desktop marking. Those lessons can then be saved to the cloud to be shared with students for access anywhere, anytime, and from any device or browser — making it the perfect solution for fostering active classrooms and encouraging creative thinking.

"I'm constantly asking myself and my team what can we use to help make teachers days run a little more smoothly and make teaching and learning more engaging. HoverCam spoke to that, creating an environment where students could become more passionate about learning. They could touch it, hear it, and respond to it as opposed to sit-and-get," said Dr. Monix.

A New Way to Teach
HoverCam's education solutions checked all the district's boxes for helping meet its priorities. For enabling early literacy, students can work at the touchpanel to do coursework that traditionally was presented to them as a worksheet. Now they drag and

drop their answers, which can be converted to different languages, addressing the diverse group of students represented within the district. If they answer incorrectly, it bounces back until they get it right. Because the Pilot captures audio content alongside annotations and other digital markups, students have what they need to study and learn independently outside the classroom. SCS tested the HoverCam and found its capability essential for preparing students for career and college readiness. The Pilot also allowed SCS the opportunity to introduce technology to educators that is easy to learn and operate, addressing the need to develop teachers and prepare them to teach all learners. Finally, with the capacity to do audio and video recordings, the Pilot allows a space to upload those recordings to Microsoft OneDrive and share them with parents who are unable to attend parent meetings and other events. This certainly meets the district's goal for mobilizing community partnerships.

"And when you have a facility where you are able to offer all the capabilities that the Pilot does, it helps educators teach the way students learn and speaks to our priority of providing more high-quality school options for our children," said Dr. Monix.

As the doors for the district's two new elementary schools prepare to open, every classroom will be furnished with the future of education in mind, with HoverCam solutions acting as the centerpiece. Currently, HoverCam's products are installed in the district's technology training lab along with a number of additional classrooms, which previously functioned as traditional learning spaces. The lab is further complimented by zSpace, All-In-One computers, and 3D printers that interface with the HoverCam Pilot and SMART IFPs. Everything — down to the room's modular furniture options — now accommodates various teaching and learning requirements that enable educators to transform the space for even more collaborative learning.

"Collaboration with peers and colleagues is necessary and mandatory in today's job market — you have to work well with other people," said Dr. Monix. "You can't do that in traditional setups where the teacher is instructing from the front with their back turned while students sit at desks in a straight row and everybody needs to be quiet. That's not what real collaboration looks like. You must have movement and immediate feedback. Real teaching and learning should adapt to those needs. We're focused on changing our culture rather than our curriculum, so we can prepare our students for college and their future careers."