

TECHCENTER21 - CASE STUDY

Blue Mountain Middle School
685 Red Dale Road
Orwigsburg, PA 17961

Program: TechCenter21

Teacher: Jared Gerace

Grades: 6-8

Enrollment: 700

Course Title: Technology Ed.

Year of Installation: 2003

Blue Mountain Middle School introduces Technology foundations to every student in the building!

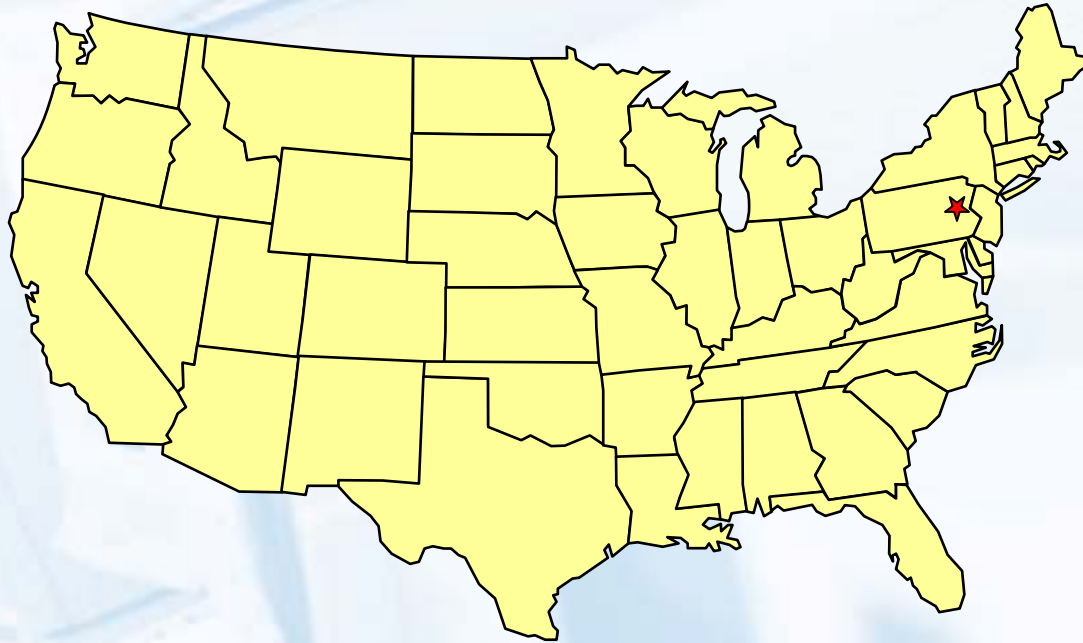
"Several teachers and parents have visited the new lab, and they just can't believe what we're doing in here now!" said Susan E. Schneider-Morgan, Blue Mountain School District's Director of Educational Technology. Susan and Jared Gerace, the Technology Education teacher at the school, spent months researching equipment, curriculum and classroom furniture that would facilitate the changes they had planned for the program. One of the key features of the new program is the curriculum. "We are now able to introduce the concept of Technology Education to every student in the building, regardless of ability or past experiences. The Middle School curriculum is the foundation of Career Exploration, especially in the areas of Engineering, Electronics, Design and Communications. The 'hands-on' activities really help drive home the concepts that the students are learning." Susan and Jared are working to tie in other applications of the schools various programs, such as FACS, Art and Computer Applications, into the labs activities.

The other key feature is the Group Projects, part of the TechCenter21 Program, developed by Applied Educational Systems, of Lititz, PA. The group projects allow for different groups of students to do co-operative learning, compare designs and outcomes, and it provides for Cross-Curriculum learning

applications—all tied into the new Pennsylvania Standards for Science and Technology. "The hands-on projects are just great. Students are so focused on what they are learning, and the parents are very impressed!" said Jared. "The organization of the AES program is excellent. Nothing has been overlooked, it's a very well thought out program!"



ADDITIONAL CASE STUDY INFORMATION



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