Middle School Teacher Manages 400 Students with Help from Online Learning Resource

**Southeast Guilford Middle School**

**SCHOOL TYPE:** Middle School

**COURSE TITLES:**
- Keyboarding
- Computer Applications
- Business Finance Information Technology

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Situation
For a teacher that will see approximately 400 students this year, tools and resources that are easy to use and help manage the classroom are like gold. This is true for Bernadette Green, a teacher at Southeast Guilford Middle School in Greensboro, NC. One of the tools that Green uses with her 6th, 7th, and 8th graders is the online program, Business&ITCenter21. In fact, Green uses the program extensively for her 7th grade Computer Applications course and her 8th grade Business Finance Information Technology course.

Resolution
On Mondays, Green gives her students their assignments for the week, due on Friday. Students then work through the Business&ITCenter21 content online independently throughout the week. The students like the control and independence this arrangement gives them. If students fall behind, they can catch up at home with the anytime, anywhere aspect of the online resource.

Early on with the program, Green noticed that although Business&ITCenter21 is engaging with media, audio, video, and interactivity, some students still struggled to take in all the content. And so Green spent some time developing study guides for each lesson in the program. Now students get a packet of materials at the beginning of each unit and they fill in outlines and answer questions as they go through the program. Green believes that if you can correctly answer a question posed in several different ways, that you’ve mastered that content.

Additionally, Green makes use of the quizzes and tests included in the program. She is able to set up her courses to allow students to reset their own quizzes a few times, giving students even more control over their learning.

When students have completed a unit, Green has them do practice and reinforcement activities. Some of these assignments are included in the program. But Green has also created some assignments for students to complete.

What does Green like most?
“I like the way Business&ITCenter21 is designed. It introduces an idea, and then breaks it down into manageable chunks. Then it asks questions and students get immediate feedback,” she explains.

And what do students like best?
“Students like best that they are more independent with Business&ITCenter21. I let them know what they need to do for the week. They set their own pace to get from Monday to Friday. They can work from home or in class,” Green says.

Green and her students have also made use of the free unit, Digital Responsibility. This unit helps prepare students for independent online work by discussing online and environmental distractions and now to cope with them.

In today’s crowded classrooms and increasing amount of standards to cover, tools that help teachers keep students on task and moving forward through content with success and proof of learning are invaluable to teachers like Green.