



Inspiring students to build visual communication skills.

Beaverton School District encourages student participation and self-expression using Adobe Spark.



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Suzanne Peerenboom, Library and Instructional Technology Teacher, Five Oaks Middle School, Beaverton School District

SOLUTION

Adobe Spark

RESULTS



Encourages students to **EXPRESS THEMSELVES** and participate in classroom activities



Provides more opportunities for academic **SUCCESS** with multiple options for demonstrating understanding



Maximizes **CLASSROOM INSTRUCTION** time with technologies that are easy to use



Sparks an interest in **EDUCATION** by encouraging students to dig deeper with creative activities



Beaverton School District

Established in 1876

Students: 41,000

Washington County, Oregon

<https://www.beaverton.k12.or.us/>

Watch the video

View Beaverton School District Students' Adobe Spark Videos

TRAITS

Coral Bleaching

FinleighLoops

CHALLENGES

- Empower students to tell their own stories and express themselves in meaningful ways in all subjects
- Maximize productive classroom instruction time by implementing technologies that are easy to use and require minimal training
- Improve technical literacy and prepare students for challenges in their future educational and professional careers



Coming together as a community to prepare students

Located in the northwest corner of Oregon, Beaverton School District serves more than 41,000 students with 53 schools. Beaverton is not only the third-largest school district in Oregon, but it is also one of the most diverse. More than half of the student population are students of color. Nearly 15% of students are English language learners with more than 100 primary languages spoken in students' homes. With strong support from parents, citizens, and community partners, Beaverton works together with the community to provide students the support they need to succeed in their lives during their school years and beyond.

"Our school's mission is to empower all students to be collaborative, courageous, and caring in their social and academic lives," says Jared Freeman, Principal at Meadow Park Middle School. "We want to prepare students for whatever challenges they may face in their future educational or professional careers, and in today's modern age, that means exposing students to the latest and greatest technologies in the classroom."

Encouraging students to experiment with dynamic technology

As part of its goal of delivering innovative educational experiences that engage all learners, Beaverton made Adobe Spark for K-12 (Primary and Secondary) available to all of its teachers and schools. Adobe provides schools with free access to Adobe Spark, Adobe's storytelling product for web and mobile, along with premium features and centralized management capabilities through the Adobe Admin Console. Using Adobe Spark, students of all ages can quickly learn to combine text, images, music, narration, and dynamic effects to create videos, presentations, and reports for any class.



“If a teacher told me I could use whatever I wanted for a project, I’d probably use Adobe Spark because you can do so many things, and it’s really simple.”

Tashube, Seventh-Grade Student, Meadow Park Middle School, Beaverton School District

When Suzanne Peerenboom became the Library and Instructional Technology Teacher at Five Oaks Middle School, she was excited to introduce technologies to the classroom that teachers could use right away to inspire learning. She brought Adobe Spark home to try it out with her son, a kindergartener at the time. Much to her amazement, both she and her son quickly learned to create short videos together. She immediately recognized that the simple but flexible features in Adobe Spark could give students new ways to demonstrate their learning.

“The functionality of Adobe Spark is amazing,” says Peerenboom. “Teachers who don’t use technology on a regular basis loved it because it’s so easy to learn. They don’t need to be highly trained experts to start using it in the classroom.”

Adobe Spark is equally easy for students to learn. In many classes, teachers have quickly introduced Spark and then let students explore. Students quickly start experimenting, creating, and sharing their knowledge with their peers.

Themes take the guesswork out of design. Starting from a blank page can be intimidating to some students, and they might spend all of their time looking for the right colors, layouts, and fonts for their project. With Adobe Spark, students can choose a design theme and immediately get to work on the actual topic that they are learning about.

“I used Adobe Spark for an assignment to talk about myself and my life,” says Sam, a seventh-grade student at Five Oaks Middle School. “I was pretty excited about it because I could talk about my family, my friends, and other things that mean a lot to me. Adobe Spark was really easy to use because everything is planned out. You just click on one theme that you want and it does the whole slide show for you.”

Students can also add personal touches, building upon the design themes by adding music, uploading photos, or even recording their own voice. For a *science project* about genetic traits, Tashube, a seventh-grade student at Meadow Park Middle School, created a photo journal to record and analyze her personal traits, such as eye color, hair color, height, and the presence of dimples. By uploading photos from her phone, Tashube could easily personalize the project.

“I was really impressed that I could press a button and Adobe Spark gave me all sorts of options,” says Tashube. “I could add a link, put in a video, upload a picture, search for an image from the Internet, and lots more. If a teacher told me I could use whatever I wanted for a project, I’d probably use Adobe Spark because you can do so many things, and it’s really simple.”



“I think students definitely feel empowered to express themselves with Adobe Spark. Students are much more eager to participate in projects because they have more options and opportunities for success.”

*Allyson Edwards, Seventh Grade Teacher,
Five Oaks Middle School, Beaverton School
District*

Reaching students at all levels

“One of the biggest challenges that Adobe Spark helps us address is finding ways to engage students of all ages, levels, and learning styles, even within the same classroom,” says Peerenboom. “If students struggle to express themselves through writing, they can create a video focusing on images that illustrate their thoughts or use a microphone to record narration. This encourages all students to participate in class, share their ideas, and communicate in ways that are meaningful to them.”

This flexibility is particularly important for students with learning disabilities or immigrant students who are still learning English. Instead of struggling to convey their ideas through formal written essays, students can create a Spark project in a mix of languages and mediums. Students gain pride in their work and build stronger relationships with their teachers and fellow classmates.

“I think students definitely feel empowered to express themselves with Adobe Spark,” says Allyson Edwards, a seventh-grade teacher at Five Oaks Middle School. “Students are much more eager to participate in projects because they have more options and opportunities for success. It helps me build trust with students and create a classroom culture where students feel safe to take risks and make mistakes, which brings so much more learning and knowledge to a classroom.”

Building scientific understanding through visuals

In Susan Duncan’s eighth-grade science classroom at Meadow Park Middle School, students aren’t just learners; they’re researchers in the making. Duncan pushes her students to dig deep into topics that interest them and share what they’ve learned with classmates and researchers outside of the classroom.

When guiding a recent class through a background research paper assignment, Duncan noticed a trend: many of the scientific websites that students were using for their research were extremely well-designed. All the data was laid out clearly with engaging visuals to help explain scientific topics. Instead of having students simply hand in a research paper, Duncan decided to challenge her students to use Adobe Spark to create their own websites to present what they learned in an equally engaging and visual manner.

One student, Avery, did his *research project* on coral bleaching. He learned that warming oceans and dying corals are affecting a huge percentage of marine life.

“Adobe Spark is fun because it helped me add another level to my project with visuals,” says Avery. “It helps me connect to the audience because instead of just reading about dying corals, people can look at pictures and compare what corals look like when they’re healthy versus near death. Seeing the difference makes you want to work harder to do something.”

Thanks to this research, Avery is now thinking about becoming an underwater photographer when he grows up. By capturing the coral reefs on camera, he wants to show people how beautiful the ocean is and inspire them to help save this precious resource.

“Adobe Spark is highly relevant for all science students. Research shows that visuals can help improve understanding of scientific concepts.”

*Susan Duncan, Eighth-Grade Teacher,
Meadow Park Middle School, Beaverton
School District*

SOLUTION AT A GLANCE

Adobe Spark

“Adobe Spark is highly relevant for all science students,” says Duncan. “Research shows that visuals can help improve understanding of scientific concepts. With Adobe Spark, even if a student can’t find the words to explain a concept, they can use video and images to demonstrate understanding, and that’s what science is really all about.”

Motivating students with published work

With Adobe Spark, students have the opportunity to bring their projects out of the classroom and share with parents, friends, and even the community. Robyn Tanksley, a third-grade teacher at Sexton Mountain Elementary School, believes in students publishing their work.

“When students know that they’re expected to publish their work, they put a lot more effort in because they know it’s going to be seen,” says Tanksley. “They’re much more conscious of creating a piece that they’re proud of. Adobe Spark is an amazing platform for students to publish their Writers Workshop pieces and bring their writing to a whole new level.”

Every year, third-graders at Sexton Mountain start off the year with a “cereal box” project that combines narrative writing, poetry, art, speech, and even math. Students create an imaginary cereal where every component represents an aspect of their life, from the self-portrait on the front of the box to the “nutrition facts” listing their personality traits.

This year, students are creating the cereal box project with an Adobe Spark page. Then they are using Adobe Spark to create a video commercial for their cereal, recording narration directly through Adobe Spark.

Third-grader Finleigh loved using Adobe Spark to create a *glide show* for her “FinleighLoops” cereal box in Adobe Spark. “It was really fun because you got to explore and there were no limits,” says Finleigh. “My favorite part was the glide show, because it fades from one photo to the next and it looks really cool. I want to ask my dad if we can work on Adobe Spark at home, because I really liked creating my own web page. I think he’d like working on it too.”

Making students ready for the future

As technology evolves, students must be ready to embrace any new tool or challenge that comes their way. With Adobe Spark, Beaverton is preparing students for a future where they will be leaders, creators, and innovators.

“It’s hard to find a tool that works for everyone, but whether I’m working with kindergarteners, high schoolers, or teachers, Adobe Spark has something for everyone,” says Jon Samuelson, Innovation Strategist for Beaverton School District. “Adobe Spark gives kids a great platform to tell their own stories and take ownership of their learning.”

For more information

<https://spark.adobe.com/edu/>



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