Teaching communication for the digital age.

Grandview Preparatory School helps students find their voices with Adobe Spark.

GRANDVIEW
PREPARATORY SCHOOL

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Rosita Darden, Innovation Coordinator and Middle-School ELA Teacher, Grandview Preparatory School

SOLUTION

Adobe Spark

RESULTS

Teaches students to communicate ideas **VISUALLY**

Reaches a wide range of **LEARNING** styles

Encourages students to **SOLVE PROBLEMS CREATIVELY**

Allows students to focus on **IDEAS** rather than struggling with technology

Grandview Preparatory School

Established in 1997

Students: 275

Boca Raton, Florida

www.grandviewprep.net

View Grandview Students' Adobe Spark Videos

Spanish Fútbol

Agile Learning

PenPal Schools Program

CHALLENGES

· Help students demonstrate their learning through engaging, videos

· Enhance digital literacy by introducing new technologies into the classroom

· Encourage students to find their voices and experiment with technology

"Adobe Spark empowers students to share their voices and find their confidence as strong communicators in the digital age."

Donna Leech, Science Teacher, Grandview Preparatory School

Harnessing the power of technology

Grandview Preparatory School is an independent college preparatory school for students in pre-kindergarten through grade 12. With 275 students, Grandview redefines preparatory education with innovative, personal learning experiences designed to help students create their own paths and contribute to the community.

Many teachers and schools recognize that students need a basic understanding of technology to succeed in the modern workforce. Students often grow up using computers, smartphones, and the Internet daily, so many students are already comfortable with technology. But Grandview understands that students still need training to harness the power of technology and use it effectively. In particular, students need to understand how to use visual mediums to communicate ideas.

"We want to teach students best practices for 21st century skills," says Rosita Darden, a language arts teacher who serves as the Innovation Coordinator for the lower and middle schools. "No one uses poster boards for presentations, meetings, or marketing. They're using videos and highly visual, interactive solutions. Our students need to be prepared to showcase what they can do."

"Adobe Spark is a fantastic way to help students demonstrate their understanding of a topic. It's so easy to use that students can start adding text, recording audio, and communicating their own ideas quickly."

Rosita Darden, Innovation Coordinator and Middle-School ELA Teacher, Grandview Preparatory School

Grandview opened the door for new creative possibilities for its students with the implementation of Adobe Spark, Adobe's storytelling product for web and mobile. Any school can deploy Adobe Spark for K-12 (primary and secondary) for free. As a special bonus, schools also gain free access to premium features and single sign-on, which allows teachers and students to use existing logins instead of needing to memorize new passwords. With the Adobe Admin Console, deploying Adobe Spark is surprisingly simple, even for people without extensive IT training.

"I love Adobe Spark," says Darden. "It's incredibly user-friendly, but more importantly, it can be used in many different ways that make it a great tool for all types of learners."

Supporting project-based learning

As part of its mission to provide personal attention and education, Grandview uses project-based learning methods in its classrooms. Rather than having teachers lecture in front of a class and then give a test, students dig deep into a topic and then present their newfound knowledge or skills.

"Adobe Spark is a fantastic way to help students demonstrate their understanding of a topic," says Darden. "It's so easy to use that students can start adding text, recording audio, and communicating their own ideas quickly. They spend less time struggling with technology and more time focusing on communicating their ideas."

Middle school Spanish teacher Sandra Algarin challenged students to use Adobe Spark to create a *video* about a Hispanic country where soccer is an important part of the culture. Students researched major cities, teams, and attractions in the country of their choice, and then combined pictures with text and narration in Spanish that used the required vocabulary.

Even younger students can work with Adobe Spark to create visual stories and start building fluency in digital media. Darden's third grade class collaborated on an Adobe Spark video about the process of agile learning. Darden shared the *video* on Twitter for an authentic audience. The students received great feedback from the world after doing this.

The response from students at Grandview has been extremely positive. Quiet students who may feel shy doing presentations in front of their class enjoy being able to prerecord a video. Other students work harder to perfect their Adobe Spark story knowing that it will be published online where it can be shared with friends and family, and possibly others around the world.

SOLUTION AT A GLANCE

Adobe Spark

For more information
https://spark.adobe.com/edu/

Adobe Systems Incorporated
345 Park Avenue
San Jose, CA 95110-2704
USA
www.adobe.com

Sharing ideas in the classroom and beyond

With Adobe Spark for K-12, Grandview set up single sign-on that allows each student to log in to Adobe Spark and access their personal account from school or home computers in a way that is consistent with data privacy laws like COPPA. This encourages students to use Adobe Spark at any time, whether they're making Spark projects for other classes or just for fun.

Teachers also appreciate how they can use Adobe Spark to extend conversations beyond the classroom. Science teacher Donna Leech used Adobe Spark to create a *video* about how her students use the PenPal Schools program to communicate and collaborate with students from around the world on real-world topics. By including testimonials from current students who trialed the program, Leech created a compelling video that helped to convince the administration to continue the fun learning experience for another year.

"My students and I were so excited that we could share what we learned with other classes," says Leech. "Adobe Spark empowers students to share their voices and find their confidence as strong communicators in the digital age."