

Middle School Students Achieve Success with Business&ITCenter21



Berrendo Middle School

SCHOOL TYPE:

Middle School

COURSE TITLES:

- General Technologies I
- General Technologies II

CONTACT:

Lori Hooper
800 Marion Richards
Roswell, NM 88201
lhooper@risd.k12.nm.us

Lori Hooper is a computer applications teacher at Berrendo Middle School in Roswell, NM. Hooper teaches 6th, 7th, and 8th graders. She sees students every day for a semester, 50 minutes per day. Hooper is always looking for ways to help her students learn and for effective tools to make that happen.

Patterns for Success

Hooper, a self-proclaimed Type A teacher, likes to run her classroom with routine. So, when students arrive, they begin with keyboarding practice. After that, she assigns a Business&ITCenter21 module for students to begin or continue working on.

As students work through the content and assignments provided in the online program, Hooper navigates the classroom, facilitating students, and providing assistance where needed. As time passes, and some students begin to complete the module, Hooper adds more. At that time, she also sets a deadline for the first module so that the rest of the students can wrap them up. And she gives stragglers time catch up outside of class to finish up. When a module has been completed, Hooper assigns the related project included with Business&ITCenter21.

Additionally, Hooper assigns a Jeopardy Game project, where students create a Jeopardy game. When the projects are completed, they spend a day in celebration playing the games. Hooper grades the games using a rubric she created.

Online Accessibility: No More Excuses

When asked what she likes best about Business&ITCenter21, Hooper responded,

"I'm absolutely loving being able to get on and do whatever I need to do whenever I want. Amazing. Just having accessibility everywhere and to deal with absences and sit with parents and tell them that they can do it anywhere, the library, at home, on vacation...no more excuses. I love the online program."

And the program isn't static. Based on feedback from teachers like Hooper, the program changes to accommodate needs expressed by teachers. "With the little changes that are released, you make Business&ITCenter21 so helpful in the classroom. Each new change just makes life just a little easier and a little easier," Hooper says. Those changes are pushed out automatically. There is no need to install or download anything.

Pacing Breeds Productivity

For students, Hooper says, "They love the graphics. They love that it is independent." She explained how one of the biggest complaints among students is having to wait on their peers. With the online program, students "can manage their own grades and move at their own pace." She adds that students "love the program and the modeling they see in it. They like going back and forth in the program to review."

Pickles for Programs!

To help cover the cost of the online program, Hooper actually charges students a minimal fee for the class. When students asked why, Hooper said that it's either that or use textbooks! The students were happy to contribute for the opportunity to use the online program. If the price is an issue for any students, they help sell pickles during

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lunch to raise money. You can't quite
put more responsibility into a student's
hands than to have them participate in
funding the program this way.

Teaching Students; Not Subjects

Hooper shared that in using the
online program in her courses, she's
undergone a shift in perspective. Using
advice that a veteran teacher gave her
years ago, Hooper's mantra is “teaching
students; not subjects.” For Hooper, her
students' success is based more on
their learning and less on their grades.
Her students can go on to high school
and create a PowerPoint for science
class and develop an essay in Word.
They can navigate programs and even
be successful in a summer part-time job
with the skills they learn in Hooper's
courses. That is learning.



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