

An Elementary School Uses Classroom Audio Systems to Encourage Public Speaking and Lower Discipline Rates

Student disruptions have decreased and introverted students can share their thoughts out loud

When teaching the 21st-century skill of communication, many schools focus on reading and writing, but spoken communication is just as important to students' success in school and in life. Glossophobia, the fear of public speaking, cripples 75% of our population. In some cases, this fear has the power to keep students—or educators—from achieving their goals.

“Students in classrooms with Lightspeed audio systems pay attention, have better behavior, and are more engaged. Audio systems help create a more effective experience, not only for the students, but for the teachers too.”

*Howard Vogel
J.M. Grasse, Principal*

Principal Howard Vogel of J.M. Grasse Elementary has himself suffered from a fear of public speaking, to the point that he actually delayed his student teaching to avoid speaking in front of others. As an educator who has overcome his glossophobia, he has a personal mission to give all students at his school the confidence to speak and share their thoughts in front of others. This emphasis on public speaking also builds student's social-emotional skills by teaching them to listen respectfully when others are talking.

DECREASING CLASSROOM DISTURBANCES

Grasse Elementary is the designated emotional support school in the Pennridge School District, located in Perkasie, PA. When Vogel first arrived at the school, there were Lightspeed Redcat audio systems in classrooms with hearing-impaired students. After observing a few classes using the systems, he noticed a definite improvement in students' engagement level, a decrease in disturbances, and discipline issues. Vogel saw the power of the Lightspeed systems and has begun expanding the implementation with a goal of having systems in each classroom.



SCHOOL

J.M. GRASSE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

LOCATION

PERKASIE, PA

INDUSTRY

EDUCATION

THE CHALLENGE

Hearing impaired students had difficulty hearing the teacher and fellow students, and introverted students were reluctant to speak out in class.

LIGHTSPEED SOLUTION

Redcat, Sharemike microphone



BENEFITS

Lower discipline and disruption rates

Increased student engagement and attentiveness

Increased student confidence when public speaking

ENCOURAGING PUBLIC SPEAKING

To help curb students' fear of public speaking, teachers use handheld microphones multiple times a day to give each student the opportunity to speak and be heard by the entire class. Students use these microphones during morning meetings, when reading out loud, and when doing mini-presentations.

"At the start of the school year, I remember one particularly shy student who was extremely reluctant to speak to the teacher and his fellow students, let alone in front of the entire class," said Vogel. "Over the course of the school year, his teacher encouraged him to speak using the microphone. I watched him blossom into a confident young man who was ready and willing to share his ideas out loud. By exposing young students to public speaking at a young age, they gain confidence and some never even develop a fear."

Before they started using handheld microphones and Lightspeed audio systems, students used to speak out of turn and blurt out answers to questions, disrupting the flow of the class. Now, students who wish to speak know they'll get a turn, but must wait their turn. On the other hand, students who used to fade into the background now have a chance to put themselves out there and confront their fear of speaking out loud.

Students at Grasse Elementary constantly share their ideas out loud, which helps build their confidence and overall achievement. Vogel and his teachers have used Lightspeed's two microphone audio systems to encourage positive learning environments, increase engagement, and give every student a voice.

"Not only do the students love speaking into the microphone, but teachers love that students are more attentive and engaged."

Howard Vogel

