

EN classroom 'flipping' out

Board learns of new personalized, student-centered teaching method

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KENDALLVILLE — East Noble school board members learned about an innovative way of teaching high school math called "Flipping the Classroom" Wednesday night.
East Noble High School math

teacher Amy DeWitt explained how she's teaching her Algebra I and Calculus classes, with students watching her lectures and taking notes at home on their laptops and doing their homework in the classroom. The method reverses, or "flips," the traditional teacher classroom lecture and homework

problems at home method.

DeWitt said she learned about "Flipping the Classroom" at a teachers' conference in Nashville, Tenn., and recruited high school teacher Matt Rickey and the school's technology staff to help her make the initial screencasts through a computer program called "Jing."

She introduced the method last month in her classes.

"It allows the teacher more time in the classroom to work one-on-one with students. It's student-

centered and more personalized," she said in explaining the advantages. Her Algebra I lectures are about 4-5 minutes, and her Calculus lectures are 15 to 20 minutes.

"Students can replay the lecture, stop and start it when they want to at home," she said. DeWitt includes examples of problem-solving with each lecture in a step-by-step process. She checks the students' lecture notes in the classroom. There is also a place for

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EN: Screencast accessed by 'press of a button'

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student comments on Screencast.

DeWitt pointed out that with math, some students understand the concepts more quickly than others. "It's not like teaching with everyone on the same page. With 'Flipping the Classroom,' students can work at their own pace," she said.

She also explained how easy it is for students who miss school to catch up with the class. DeWitt has a student who missed five days of school. "She watched the prerecorded Screencasts and had the work she missed done when she returned," she said.

Several of DeWitt's students attended the board meeting and endorsed the teaching method. One of her

students described herself as an "independent learner" who got frustrated under the old way, because she couldn't move on when she got the work done ahead of the class. "I can now work at my own pace," she said.

DeWitt also said she has less grading to do at home, because she's grading student work in the classroom with the students.

"It's student-centered. That's marvelous," said school trustee Carol Schellenberg.

Asked how difficult was it to access the screencast on their laptops, the students responded, "press of a button."

Superintendent Ann Linson said after the meeting "Flipping the Classroom" will catch on with other

teachers. An upcoming teachers in-service training session will focus on it.

In other business, trustees:

- approved these personnel changes: Kelli Savage's resignation as math bowl coach at North Side Elementary; termination of Johnny Saylor as a maintenance employee; and hiring of Cheryle Haines as part-time food service at Wayne Center Elementary.

- approved East Noble High School show choir director Chris Mettert's request to take show choir members to a show choir retreat at Camp Potawatami in South Milford Oct. 27-29, and to a show choir invitational at Southmont High School in Crawfordsville Nov. 18-19.