Virtual Learning Lab & Robot Pilot Overview

Robot Pilot Video

[Robot Video Link]

What is a Virtual Learning Lab?

- What Is Included:
  - Use of VirtualSC course, Highly Qualified, licensed teacher, and online learning resources.
  - Free staff training.
  - Gives the school the ability to introduce new courses, fix scheduling conflicts, or provide students with courses that may not otherwise be offered due to staffing or budget issues.
  - **Use of a Double Robot!**

What is a Virtual Learning Lab?

- Where and When?
  - In a virtual lab (computer lab) at the school.
  - Course available to students 24/7.
  - Teacher available during a set course period during the school day.

Pre-Robot Virtual Learning Labs

- Students worked in a computer lab with a course facilitator to monitor their progress.
- Traditional means of communication.
  - Messaging
  - Email
  - Skype
  - Phone
- Course facilitator and/or student emails or calls teacher for troubleshooting or advice.

Pre-Robot VLL Weaknesses

- Student commitment.
- Course facilitators experienced difficulty in troubleshooting.
- Synchronous instruction.
  - Although the teacher was available, means of communication were not always ideal.
  - Some schools could not grant student access to Skype or email.
  - Conditions were not ideal for class-wide lessons.
- Student Achievement – LEAD students showed a 9% point gain from last year to this year with the robot.

Robot Pilot Project: School Profile

- Dacusville Middle School
  - School District of Pickens County.
  - Traditional computer lab setting.
  - Lab Monitor & Technology Supervisor.
- Lead Academy
  - South Carolina Public Charter School District.
    - Located in Greenville County.
  - Non-traditional setting; classroom.
  - Course monitor/full time, licensed teacher.

Goals of the 2014-2015 Robot Pilot

- Improve communication between student, teacher and course facilitator.
  - Technology issues.
  - Live sessions.
- Promote student engagement.
  - Student commitment is essential.
- Promote student achievement.
  - Increase in participation, individual student grades.

Impact of the Robot in the VLL

- Communication.
  - Provides instant communication for student or facilitator needs.
  - Students feel more comfortable asking questions.
- Interaction, participation and engagement.
  - Students interact more often with their peers, the facilitator and the teacher.
  - Students are increasingly interested in and excited about the course.
- Student achievement
  - Students are maintaining appropriate pace.
  - Assignments are submitted on time, more often, resulting in better grades!
  - Dacusville – 93% class average, LEAD 90% class average.

Future of Robots with VirtualSC

- Partner with other programs and SCDE offices.
- Expand use to other VLL subject areas.
  - Spanish (Live Sessions).
  - Math and/or Science.
  - Physical Education.
  - Any VirtualSC course!

Questions? Contact Us!

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