

# 21 Voices

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The Official Newsletter of SAU 21

## Technology integration

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**NORTH HAMPTON |**  
Whether it's creating formulas on Excel spreadsheets, importing pictures and videos into PowerPoint presentations, creating and maintaining their own blog, or videotaping weather reports, North Hampton School's fifth graders can do it!

Through the natural incorporation of technology into students' independent research studies, unit on weather, and blogging (to name a few), these fifth graders are prepared to compete in the 21st century world of technology.

Students studying their passions were asked to take a "responsible risk," explained as choosing a topic that would push them beyond what they already knew. Students chose topics from snowboarding to ski racing to bears. Not only

did students have to challenge themselves with their topic choice but also with their use of technology.

After researching, students designed their own presentations creating PowerPoints, iMovies, and even books using iPhoto. When students talk about their projects, the passion and investment in their learning is clear. As one student stated, "There are different types of learning. People think differently. The kids are doing the planning and we are getting the same amount of knowledge."

With the most recent integrated unit on weather, students learned about different cloud types, air pressure, barometers, wind chill, weather fronts, and more. Again, the use of technology naturally came into play. Students chose or wrote their own weather scenario with a partner and had to produce a PowerPoint presentation and, in turn, use it to film a weather

report using a backlit projector. Students used Google and the Internet to research their scenarios and find both pictures and videos to import into their presentations. They also used Excel spreadsheets to show their weather data on line graphs. Once the weather reports were filmed, students had to use iMovie to create and edit their final movies.

So, are these students stretching themselves as learners? One fifth grader exclaimed, "It wasn't easy but it was fun overall."

Walk into another fifth grade classroom and you will find students at their classroom computer or using the laptop cart to design and update their class blog. Students suggest topics to put on the site and are responsible for its maintenance.

The site contains book recommendations, poetry, math and geography games, updates on the presidential election, pictures, and both audio and video files of students' learning.

The students encourage people to explore their site and give them feedback. One student claims the best benefit of the blog is, "Anyone in the world at anytime can look at it." And, when asked why people should take a look at their blog, one fifth grader declared,



"You can learn a lot about what is going on in our classroom."

To do exactly that, just log on to the North Hampton School Web site at [www.northhamptonschool.org](http://www.northhamptonschool.org) or go directly to <http://5swnh.edublogs.org/>.

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