Engaging Students with Technology
A small, rural district in Kansas adopts eBackpack as a part of their 1-to-1 iPad initiative to engage students daily.

Ben Coumerilh is an enthusiastic and visionary supporter of iPad technology in a learning environment. He has been Director of Technology at USD 352, a school of about 970 students in a rural town in northwest Kansas, for about a year and a half. Before that, Coumerilh was the CIO of Northwest Kansas Technical College, where he led one of the nation’s first 1-to-1 iPad initiatives in a two-year college.

Enthusiastic about technology. Ben Coumerilh is a strong supporter of enhancing learning environments with technology. He has successfully used eBackpack to implement a paperless workflow in his school district.

Tight integration
Coumerilh reports that eBackpack tightly integrated with PowerSchool (a Student Information System) to provide a seamless workflow with the iPad. “We really no longer have the need to have a traditional computer in the workflow when it comes

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“Our intent is not just to put technology in the hands of our students; we want to give them a reason to be engaged. The iPad along with eBackpack definitely helps us accomplish that goal.”
—Ben Coumerilh, Director of Technology, USD 352, Goodland KS

From Coumerilh’s perspective, eBackpack is an excellent fit with the school’s vision to engage students every day. “Our intent is not just to put technology in the hands of our students,” he explains. “We want to give them a reason to be engaged. There is no reason why learning can’t be fun and engaging. The iPad, along with eBackpack, definitely helps us accomplish that goal – and we know from our own experience that when students are engaged, they are more attentive and ready to learn.”

Faster, easier, more efficient

Coumerilh strongly believes that it is important to make technology as transparent as possible. “Technology is supposed to help us do things faster, easier and more efficiently,” he says, “but many times it seems as though it gets in the way. I really want to create an environment where technology is truly a tool to accomplish what you originally set out to do in the first place. Students are at our district to learn, and teachers are there to teach and make a difference. eBackpack and iPad technology are definitely helping us in that regard.”

Online leadership. Superintendent Bill Biermann is excited about the school year and the implementation of new technologies in the district. USD 352 has implemented the eBackpack paperless workflow system ensuring a smooth workflow for students, teachers, and even parents — along with iPads.

to issuing, grading and returning assignments,” he states. “It can all be done on the iPad because of eBackpack.”

A wonderful solution

Coumerilh has high praise for eBackpack’s responsiveness to customer needs and changing technology. “At the beginning of last year, our teachers were clamoring for a way to annotate on the iPad, right in the eBackpack App,” he says. “Within a few short months, the eBackpack team produced a wonderful solution. Our teachers absolutely love it! I truly don’t think I’ve had a company that has had better customer support than eBackpack. They have been focused on our needs and have been quick to come up with solutions.”

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