Using Video PD to Save Time and Learn Together

A science teacher discovers the benefits of video professional development in the classroom.

With their crowded calendars, today's educators can be hard pressed to find time to learn from each other. Since the agendas at PD days tend to be structured with district initiatives and teachers' peer-to-peer collaboration, time may sometimes be limited to a four-minute passing period, lunch or the few precious moments before or after students come into the classroom.

With the growing popularity of apps like Snapchat and Facebook Live, capturing and sharing video is becoming a staple of our daily communication, to the point that it is changing the way teachers collaborate and share their insights.

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>
> *Andrea Friend*
> *Anodver Middle School, 6th-and-8th grade teacher*

Bringing together her need to find ways to learn from her peers and the high-quality video camera that lives in her smartphone, this year Andrea Friend, a 6th-and 8th-grade science teacher at Andover Middle School, was one of the first to pilot Lightspeed's new Activate Audio System and Activate App. She used the system to record and capture real-time student interactions during a lesson that was new to her. "Utilizing the camera on an iOS or Android device, the Activate App syncs up high-quality audio and video allowing me to push the content to a cloud-based video storage platform," Friend said. "From there, I can self-reflect on the lesson and post it to our Science department learning community to ask for feedback from my peers on how the lesson flowed."

This seamless system solves multiple problems, allowing Friend to not only utilize existing technology that her students are very comfortable with, but also to collaborate and discuss what can be learned in the future by reflecting on the lesson.

SCHOOL
ANDOVER MIDDLE SCHOOL

LOCATION
ANDOVER, KANSAS

INDUSTRY
EDUCATION

THE CHALLENGE
Andover Middle School was in need of a solution to encourage stronger peer-to-peer collaboration. A video and photo uploading tool was used to create PD in the classroom that could save time and encourage independent learning and student understanding.

LIGHTSPEED SOLUTION
Activate Audio System and App

BENEFITS
Promotes peer-to-peer collaboration by increasing time to connect

Clearly seeing those "ah-ha" moments during student interactions

Educators can learn new methods when revisiting saved video lessons

PEER-TO-PEER COLLABORATION

Last spring, one of Friend's colleagues was struggling with a new lesson plan. Friend decided to record a video of students exploring the topic in her classroom. With the recording, she was able to let her colleague see her approach to the lesson. "The video let my colleague see the value of the lesson and he decided to replicate the experience in his own classroom," Friend said.

By trading videos, the teachers saved the time they would've spent discussing the lesson, and "saw" into each other's classrooms without disrupting their students.

TEACHER EVALUATIONS

Using the Activate system also helped Friend get valuable feedback from her coaches more often. During live observations, an observer might leave the room two or three minutes before the teacher gets to a major "ah-ha" moment and may miss critical student

interactions. "With video PD," Friend said, "teachers have the ability to send footage to administrators or coaches and say, 'This is what you missed, and this is where the students were going with the concept.'"

Rather than saying, "I wish you could have seen and heard the student conversations," with the Active System and App, educators can bring that moment back to life, allowing others to experience the authentic conversations that occurred between students more than once.

Video capabilities in our everyday devices are rapidly increasing the use of video capture as the foundation of collaboration and evaluation—and also to inspire independent learning and show evidence of student understanding. Lightspeed's video solution is not another initiative; it has made strategic initiatives more useful and easier to achieve.