NYC Elementary Digs Deeper into 1:1 Initiative and Curriculum with ActivPanel

When Monique Paniagua became principal of P.S. 101Q in January 2013, all classrooms were filled with interactive whiteboards that connected to a teacher's desktop or laptop computer. The boards were either turned off or seldom used in classrooms beyond its limited functionality as a projector. Paniagua was seeking a teacher-friendly solution to give her staff the flexibility to make lesson instruction more interactive for her students. The veteran administrator was also looking for an EdTech partnership that would help the district scaffold a robust curriculum in core areas such as literacy.

"7 years ago, the truth is that I would walk the building and see very few teachers using older interactive whiteboard models on a consistent basis during lessons. Now, almost every classroom is using ActivPanel® in meaningful ways, multiple times a day," Paniagua said.

> "The wear and tear, lack of future-readiness, and the cost of bulbs factored into us switching over to Promethean. I saw the gigantic jump in what we had and where we were going as a school. Now, every room has an ActivPanel."
>
> *- Adam Hyman*

With tech funding available, Paniagua heard about Promethean through nearby Metropolitan Expeditionary Learning School (MELS) and a New York City Department of Education (NYCDOE) spokesman for Promethean. Initially aiming to transition towards a 1:1 device initiative, P.S. 101Q Technology Coordinator Adam Hyman discovered an interactive flat panel at a workshop focusing on intuitive learning experiences that drive classroom engagement.

After selecting Promethean, P.S. 101Q installed ActivPanel in 16 classrooms, including the school's media center. Receiving positive staff feedback, the school added an ActivPanel in 11 additional classrooms for 2019-2020.

Enhancing Creativity & Curriculum

Paniagua's focus is on helping educators develop a stronger literacy curriculum. By utilizing technology in a whole class-mini lesson, secondary small groups, or independent reading, Paniagua's

workshops have helped teachers craft pedagogical solutions that keep students engaged as readers.

P.S. 101Q's partnership with the Teachers College Reading and Writing Project has yielded significant progress and accolades for Paniagua and her staff - the school was awarded as a 2019 National Blue Ribbon School by the U.S. Department of Education. ELA teachers are adopting the same proven reading and writing strategies in tandem with ActivPanel. Each panel adaptation will make mini-lessons hands-on to grow 21st century skills on a device-agnostic platform. "They are using ActivPanel to make the instruction very visible. The technology makes interactive learning a reality for multiple learning modalities," Paniagua added.

ELA teachers have simplified classroom management, using the Promethean Timer and Spinner apps to organize small groups during a read-aloud lesson. Along with the Classroom Essential Apps, teachers enhance lesson delivery
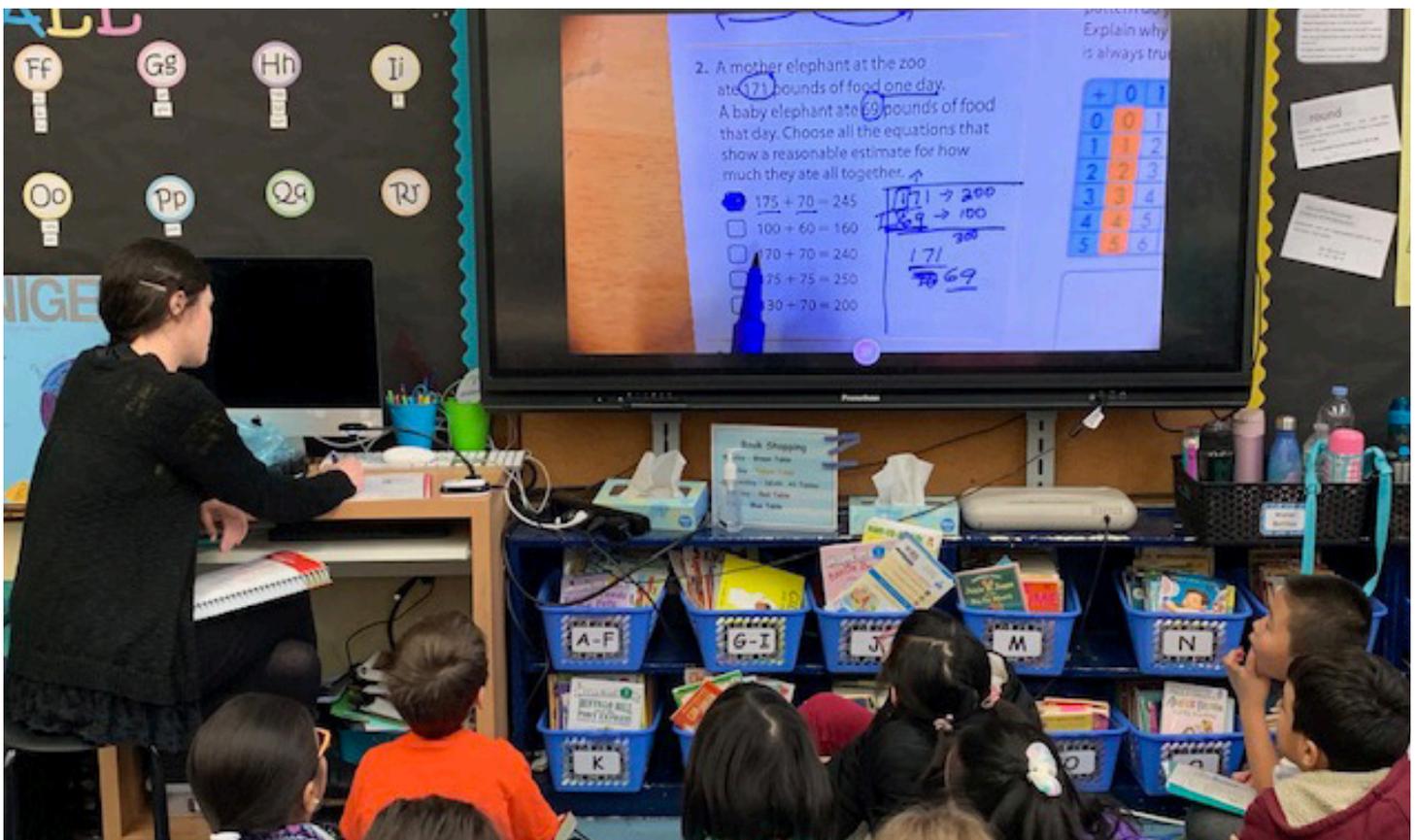
on ActivPanel with Google Drive™ and video clips. With the Promethean Screen Share app, teachers can now mirror their device onto the panel for multiple facets of a reading lesson. To illustrate key reading concepts and strategies, the Annotate app gives teachers the power to annotate live over any app.

The school's math and science programs are incorporating ActivPanel with STEM and STEAM lessons that align with Next Generation Learning Standards. ActivPanel's Whiteboard app facilitates more hands-on activities with a user-friendly interface that models interactive STEM learning. By activating multi-user mode in the Whiteboard app, students show aspects of their daily work on the infinite canvas. For projects and small group labs, ActivPanel lets teachers highlight each step of the scientific method with any mirrored device, enhancing STEM critical thinking skills.

Hyman believes that ActivPanel's adaptive software features have led to greater teacher-buy in.

"The preinstalled everyday apps are amazing. A teacher doesn't want to always say, "I need to learn something else to do basic teaching." If they've ever used an iPad® or iPhone®, they can take it, run with it, and go with plug-and-play functionality,"

- Hyman said

Forging an Interactive Learning Environment

After receiving a RESO A Project grant in Fall 2019, P.S. 101Q upgraded its media arts center with a total of 14 Windows™ 10 desktop computers, a Windows 10 Education laptop cart, and a 30-device iPad cart will complement ActivPanel for a more personalized learning experience across all subjects.

Hyman has witnessed how quickly his students pick up ActivPanel tips and tricks in his classroom. By encouraging students to use ActivPanel to anchor independent and small group assignments, auto-differentiating a curriculum becomes a reality. "Students get ideas that spark conversation and natural questioning that I don't have to force on them. Everything they're thinking of wanting to do can happen on ActivPanel," Hyman said.

One of Hyman's favorite uses of the ClassFlow software involves multiple polling features to check student understanding of lesson material. After having students connect using the device of their choice, Hyman will show a pre-assessment question that initiates an interactive discussion. Specifically, Hyman will organize answers by color code to reinforce key concepts and goals.

A recipient of the NYCDOE Excellence in School Technology Award, P.S. 101Q has earned trailblazer status by furthering its K-5 coding curriculum initiatives. By leveraging ActivPanel's Android™ user interface, Hyman's students have embraced gamification style learning to program, test, and design their own games. Hyman believes that the newly acquired iPad® devices will expand his coding curriculum to lower grade levels, bringing greater interactivity through popular coding apps such as codeSpark Academy™ and Scratch™.

Lab Tested, Kid-Approved

Behind every meaningful tech culture is a leadership team that understands the specific needs of each classroom. From the Virtual Media Arts Center, Hyman formed an alliance of tech-savvy 5th-grade students known as the Student Technology and Real-Time Knowledge (STARK) Team. The STARK team members play an integral role to help teachers troubleshoot and resolve common issues. As a result of STARK's steadfast efforts and constructive feedback, Hyman's team has given every classroom the confidence to integrate ActivPanel into more aspects of their daily instruction. "We like hanging out with our friends and helping the teachers if they need our help. It feels good to help others," a current STARK team member said.

Professional Development

Paniagua and Hyman stressed the need for continued professional development to give P.S. 101Q staff added opportunities to grow their skills in a collaborative environment. "The truth is that the teachers are asking for advanced professional development. They have found these panels to be teacher-friendly and they're able to figure things out," Paniagua said.

Each PD session has fostered an interactive staff dialogue to refine classroom pedagogies by making implementation visible. "Schools need technology coaches and assistants more than ever before. If you don't understand how to integrate it into a lesson, what's the point in having it?" Hyman added.
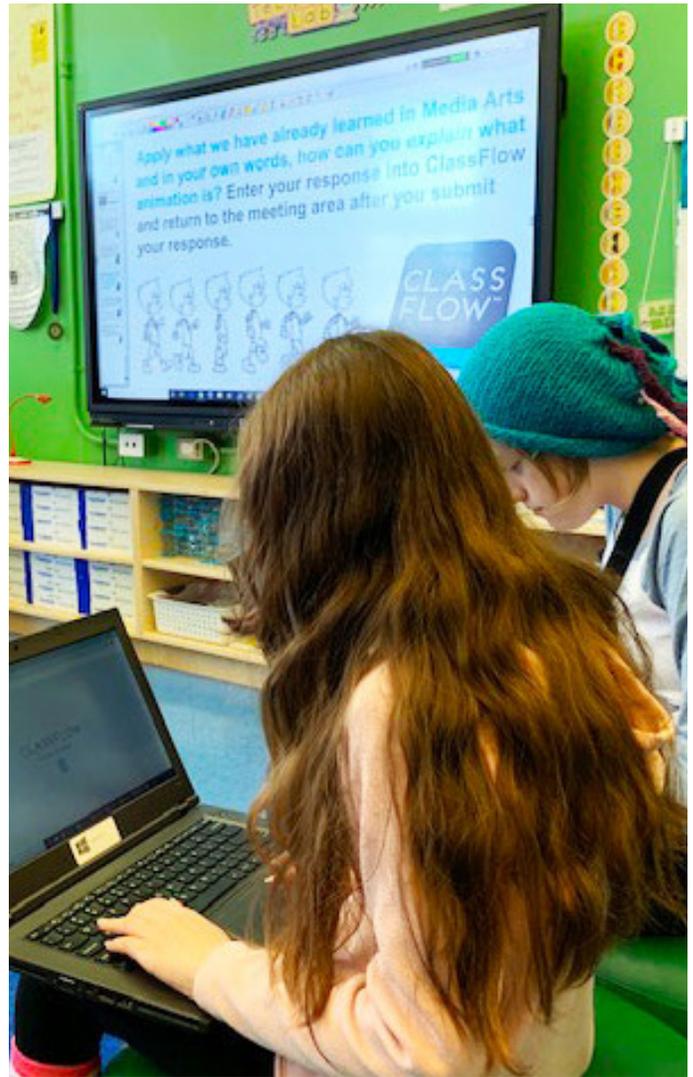
Promethean's partnership with P.S. 101Q has remained strong for years - staff and administrators believe that each step of the integration process with ActivPanel will lead them closer to better outcomes in their classrooms.

"The panels are very teacher-friendly, easy-to-use, and there's something engaging about [ActivPanel] that makes you want to use them.
I'm looking forward to us growing and integrating them in even more beneficial ways for students."

- Principal Monique Paniagua

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