



Pope John XXIII Catholic School Community


Award Category:

Innovative Projects
Facilitated by Technology

Location:

Scottsdale, Arizona

Diocese:

Phoenix

Principal:

Debbie McFarland

Students:

600

Grades:

K-8

Website:

www.popejohnxxiii.org

Kids Building Character

Kids Building Character is an innovative character-building program created at Pope John XXIII Catholic School Community in Scottsdale, AZ. In this school-wide project, students from each grade level create character lessons which are presented to all students through live video or animated presentations in the school's weekly video announcements, PJN (Pope John News).

The activity of creating this program empowers students to learn desirable character traits and builds their technological skills for future educational and real-world situations. Students employ technology in the development of strategies for solving problems ethically and effectively.

Development of the curriculum began with the creation of a media/technology curricular component for the eighth-grade students, focusing on the character traits of social awareness and academic achievement. Eighth-graders then serve as technology leaders for the younger grades and help students create presentations based on character traits assigned to each grade.

Acquisition of the video hardware and software has enabled the staff of Pope John XXIII School to integrate this technology into the mainstream curriculum. Music classes have created their own music in addition to

studying music history and theory. Students of Spanish language can independently complete assignments and practice speaking. And students are taking advantage of the technology in their art classes with computer painting, photo manipulation, and retouching. A new project sees students applying their learning about character traits to the introductions for the student liturgies.

