



How the Media and Technology Team in a large Florida district helps teachers save time with Newsela

DISTRICT PROFILE

District

LARGE DISTRICT IN FLORIDA

Location

FLORIDA

Back to school challenge:

CONSOLIDATING RESOURCES
TO SAVE TEACHERS' TIME



THE CHALLENGE

Facing new challenges, teachers struggle to find the right tools to meet changing student needs

As a core member of the Instructional Technology and Media team in a large district in Florida, Nancy understands the challenges of supporting teachers at scale.

With this size comes the challenge of giving teachers the tools they need to support all students. Lately, the diversity of student needs has become more apparent than ever, as teachers have taught in distance learning, hybrid, and in-person settings.

Fortunately, the district was already making strides towards embracing digital learning, by rolling out a 1:1 initiative in cohorts, as well as investing in a variety of digital tools.



“Now, all of a sudden the technology is at the forefront,” which poses a challenge for teachers trying to reach early learners, and learners with unique needs.

According to Nancy, teachers face the challenge of navigating all of the technology they have available to them, and selecting the best tool for the job. This is happening with a backdrop of limited time and increased responsibilities.

**NEWSELA SUCCESS STORY:
LARGE DISTRICT IN FLORIDA**

“The investment in providing multiple instructional technology resources can make selecting the best tool for the job a bit overwhelming for teachers making the quick switch to distance learning,” said Nancy.

In supporting teachers, Nancy believes that instructional goals and instructional strategies come first. But in the current teaching context, selecting the right digital tool comes at a close second.

This choice becomes more challenging as the district has had to manage teachers' expectations about what tools would be able to do for them. With so much on their plates, teachers don't have the time to evaluate numerous instructional tools.

THE SOLUTION

Through focused technology support, teachers save time and gain clarity with Newsela



As Nancy works to support hundreds of teachers across content areas and grade levels, she consistently suggests Newsela for addressing teachers needs in a time-efficient way.

“It's one of my favorite tools to train teachers with,” Nancy said.

The way Newsela is both time-saving for teachers as well as empowering for students is one of the things she appreciates most. Newsela offers a wealth of content that gives both teachers and students choice and variety, and makes it unnecessary to spend hours searching the web for vetted content.

“It is very engaging for students because even though teachers can make assignments, students can choose resources and do their own research,” Nancy said. “It's for every content area - there's something for everyone.”



“The support, the professional development, and the community on Newsela all keep getting better, too.”

Nancy

INSTRUCTIONAL TECHNOLOGY
AND MEDIA TEAM

**NEWSELA SUCCESS STORY:
LARGE DISTRICT IN FLORIDA**

Nancy notices and appreciates Newsela’s continuous product improvements. Specifically, she’s observed that her district teachers have new and better ways to track student data on Newsela.

“The support, the professional development, and the community on Newsela all keep getting better, too” Nancy said.

As teachers embrace the digital assessment features like quizzes, Write prompts, Power Words for vocabulary acquisition, and annotations, in place of printed articles and assessments, she gets a visual reminder of Newsela’s time-saving capabilities.

“Teachers’ wheely carts are no longer filled with so many papers,” Nancy has observed. “Time saved, and papers aren’t lost.”

As someone who has to support teachers using instructional technology across all grade levels and content areas, she is consistently reminded that Newsela is a great option for all of those teachers because everyone appreciates the time-saving benefit.

“Efficiency and time-saving is a big sell across the grade levels and across the content areas,” Nancy said.



THE IMPLEMENTATION

A simple framework leads teachers across content areas to say ‘yes’ to Newsela

To support teachers in selecting the best technology for their instructional goals and strategies in an efficient way, Nancy uses a questioning framework to help teachers narrow down their list and make better decisions.



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INSTRUCTIONAL TECHNOLOGY
AND MEDIA TEAM

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1. Does it address the standards?

2. Does it engage students?

3. Does it provide relevant data?

4. Does it save you time?

Nancy hears teachers answer “yes” to all four of her questions when applying them to Newsela. As she introduces Newsela to more teachers, the flexibility of Newsela content is frequently reinforced for her, too.

As a member of the district with a glimpse into many different use cases of Newsela, Nancy shared a variety of implementations that she has supported teachers with this year:

- Art teachers use Newsela content related to styles or topics of art studied
- Advanced Placement classes use Newsela content to discuss current events
- In business classes, students search for and read Newsela content showing instances of how math or technology are used in real life
- In elementary classrooms, teachers leverage Newsela’s read aloud feature to help students access both fiction and nonfiction texts

In the secondary classrooms, in particular, Nancy has had success with telling the teachers, “you’re not a reading teacher, but you do have content that you want students to understand.” After teachers discover the time-saving assessment features of Newsela, in combination with the quality content, they are sold.

“Quizzes are automatically graded, the Power Words activities are automatically graded. It’s great for teachers,” Nancy said. Although annotations require the teacher’s input for grading, Nancy notes that teachers can still use student annotations as a fast and effective way to gauge student understanding.

“When I can show teachers multiple uses for the same tool, they really appreciate that,” Nancy said.



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