

School: Salem-Keizer Online School
Location: Salem, OR
Teacher: Barry Jahn
Technology: ClassPad Manager Software & the ClassPad 101 Online Course

Summary: After spending many years as a math teacher and, most recently, as a developer of online education courses, this educator played a central role in bringing handheld math technology to life online.

Who Am I

My name is Barry Jahn. I am a retired math instructor who is now responsible for the development and implementation of courses and technologies that use networks and the Internet in the delivery of instruction to students at Salem-Keizer online school. The courses system also provides students with a way to effectively communicate with their instructors. I work closely with the chairman of the mathematics department, Burt Kanner.

My Experience with the Casio ClassPad Manager Technology

As a retired math instructor, it didn't me take me long to recognize the valuable functionality that the ClassPad Manager software provides to instruction. At Salem-Keizer, we offer dozens of math courses online. As Burt mentioned previously, one of our greatest challenges was always how to integrate the use of graphing calculator technology into our lessons. We found that the traditional graphing calculators introduced one roadblock after another.

Then along came the Casio ClassPad Manager. After Burt introduced it to me and I spent some time with the technology, I quickly realized that this (along with the ClassPad 300 hardware) was one of the most innovative educational tools introduced to the market in many years. Using the ClassPad Manager software, you simply need to click the desktop icon and the graphing calculator is on your screen. It does not matter whether a student knows how to use a calculator from previous experience or is being exposed for the first time, with the ClassPad Manager it is only a matter of minutes until you start seeing results. From traditional, basic calculations through sophisticated graph analysis – this tool does it all and does it in a way that makes complicated problems easy to visualize, understand, and solve.

And, while all of that is important, I still do not think it is the most significant feature that separates this particular calculator technology from any other. In my opinion, this technology enables students and teachers to address some of the major goals set forth by the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM).

One of the major goals of NCTM is for students to demonstrate and annotate the steps they use in the problem solving process. This product allows students to quickly and easily capture the screens that show the steps they are taking to solve a problem and paste them into their Word processor. This is exceptional. Students are able to use their Word processor to define the problem, discuss strategies, and then use the ClassPad Manager as a tool to help them work through the steps towards a solution. While they are doing this, they can easily capture, annotate and describe the process with ease.

I believe this technology is invaluable to our online math curriculum and have already witnessed the outstanding level of mathematics engagement and excitement that it fosters in our students.