

**School:** Vashon High School  
**School District:** St. Louis Public Schools  
**Location:** St. Louis, MO  
**Math Supervisor:** Nevels Nevels  
**Technology:** Casio Graphing Calculators

**Summary:** After being chosen over six-years ago as the graphing calculator of choice for St. Louis Public Schools, Casio has continued to be supportive in the implementation of technology in our district.

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### **Who Am I?**

My name is Nevels Nevels. I am currently the chairman of the mathematics department at Vashon High School in the St. Louis Public School District. I have been teaching mathematics at various levels for the past 11 years and am a member of our district's calculator review committee.

### **Our Initial Casio Experience**

Six years ago, our district decided to make a large-scale investment in all forty middle schools and high schools by purchasing graphing calculators to be used in the mathematics classroom. It was at that time that I was nominated to the calculator review committee to help decide which calculator model and company would best support our needs. The process was arduous as we reviewed several different products and received numerous amounts of information from each of 3 different calculator manufacturers. Although Texas Instruments calculators overwhelmingly dominated our district at this point in time, each company visited our committee and presented their products and support materials.

In the end, we were so impressed with the Casio presentation, technology, and support materials that we voted as a committee to proceed with a district wide adoption of their products. In addition to these considerations, we also had to consider price. By our standards, and probably by the standards of many urban districts, our calculator adoption was HUGE. We found then, and continue to find today, that Casio offers competitively featured graphing calculators that cost approximately half as much as competitive calculators. For this one adoption, we spent approximately \$1,300,000 to purchase graphing calculators for all of our middle schools and high schools. If we had decided to purchase the comparable Texas Instruments calculators instead of the Casio models, we would have required at least another \$400,000 to get the same number of calculators.

### **Our Continued Casio Experience**

It is now six-years later, and Casio continues to be supportive in our implementation of calculators in the district. They visited our schools, provided free professional development and resource materials, and have really become people we can rely on.

***Professional Development:*** Casio's free professional development programs have enabled us to train several teachers in our district who can now be considered "certified Casio Educational Calculator trainers." These teachers have been able to lead professional development for our district and as many as seven different teachers have presented graphing calculator sessions at various mathematics conferences. This would not have been possible without Casio's support.

**Functionality:** I, personally, am an avid technology nut and mathematician. I own numerous graphing calculators including the TI-83 Plus, TI-84 Plus, TI-89 Titanium, HP-49GII, Casio fx-2.0, Casio fx-9750G Plus, Casio fx-9860G, and Casio ClassPad 300. I love them all and use them for different purposes. However, when it comes down to the one that I take out of my drawer and use the most, it is undoubtedly a Casio. The ease-of-use and functionality of the product make it easy for teachers to learn and, more importantly, make it easy to use in the classroom with students. In addition to performing similar functions with fewer keystrokes, Casio's icon driven menu system allows students to dive into the mathematics rather than learn to navigate what can sometimes be confusing menu systems.

Given my long history using graphing calculators, I have also noticed that Casio is an often-imitated innovator. This graphing calculator innovation can be seen in such areas as the first graphing calculator, Algebra tutorials, Dynamic Graphing, Recursive Functions, Conics, Natural Textbook Displays on a traditional graphing calculator, and stylus driven graphing with Drag-n-Drop capabilities.

**Casio Educator Rewards Program:** Using this program from Casio we have also been able to acquire free overhead calculators, calculator panels, and TV-Interface technology from Casio. These programs are easy to use and we have been able to supply several classrooms with technology through their use.

### **Where Do We Go From Here**

We have recently made another purchase of Casio graphing calculators for our district and look forward to the continued professional support from our Casio representatives.

### **For More Information About:**

Casio Graphing Calculators

[www.casioeducation.com](http://www.casioeducation.com)

800-582-2763