

# **Report on NISD iPod Initiative**

## **July 2009, Kelly Smith**

### **Introduction**

Many students have iPods (or MP3 players) and are already familiar with this technology. However, iPods are more than just music or video players for entertainment (which is how most students use them)! Since iPods “speak” to today's students in a multimedia “language” that they understand and enjoy, they can be used effectively and in many different ways for teaching and learning.

Both teachers and students can create instructional content for the iPod or find existing content on the Internet. This content can incorporate audio, video, and text. Podcasts can also be posted online for later viewing on a computer or iPod.

Podcast “lessons” can be used in any subject area to:

- Introduce, teach, or review concepts and content
- Address multiple learning styles
- Engage and motivate students
- Differentiate instruction
- Support English Language Learners
- Assess student learning
- Foster creativity and technology skills (in both teachers and students)

### **2008-2009**

One year ago Technology Services purchased a mobile cart of 20 iPods for the Special Schools iPod Initiative, coordinated by Academic Technology Specialist Mary McBeth. The iPod cart rotates to each Special School for about three weeks at a time. Mary provides teacher staff development, works with the teachers to create instructional content for the iPods, and also works with the students herself. A password-protected website with NISD teacher-created podcast lessons, student and teacher testimonials, etc. facilitated the project.

## **2009-2010**

We plan to replicate the “special schools” iPod model for all schools. With \$31,000 of Title II Part D funds, Technology Services will soon be purchasing three more mobile carts with 40 iPods each. These will rotate among all-level classrooms at various schools. Academic Technology Services’ Coordinators and CITs will provide staff development and support for teacher-created lessons and best practices for student use.

- Apple iPod 16GB Nano, \$200 each (x 120)
- Bretford PowerSync iPod Cart, \$2,300 each (x3)

We anticipate that this initiative will be very popular with both teachers and students! Teachers and students have already created some great content that is easily adaptable to the iPod format.