

Maplewood Teacher Wins BOCES Tech Award.

Students today learn in some fascinating ways. And Maplewood third-grade teacher Ms. Janine Colagiovanni's students can't wait to see what she has in store for them next. "I like to incorporate technology into everything I do in the classroom," says Ms. Colagiovanni. "I'm finding that tech components, like SMARTboards or eClickers, help bring subjects to life in a way that kids find exciting.

"I like to be creative in my class and allow the kids to share a variety of learning experiences," continues Ms. Colagiovanni. "I find that students are often unable to express their mathematical thinking skills orally or in writing. But when they are offered a variety of mathematical experiences, students are able to understand mathematical operations and become confident in their ability to communicate their thoughts in a fun and interactive way."

Ms. Colagiovanni accomplished this with her third graders by creating a group 'Multiplication Rhapsody,' enabling students to invent original rhymes about specific multiplication facts. "The 'Multiplication Rhapsody' allows all of the students to participate and provides them with an opportunity to be successful in learning unfamiliar multiplication facts," she explains.

The lesson involves several elements. First, each group picks a multiplication fact out of a hat. Then the groups write down all the number sentences for that fact. Once all the facts are accurate, students create sentence rhymes based on their number sentences. The students practice with their groups, learning their rhymes and multiplication lines. In the final component, students become "rap stars," delivering their group multiplication rap in front of the class and using the web camera to record their performances. You can see the results at Ms. Colagiovanni's eboard on the school district website: www.shufsd.org, or by accessing: <http://teachertube.com>. Type in 'Multiplication Rhapsody' on teachertube.com to view the videos featuring Maplewood students showing off their math skills in a fun and creative way and earning Ms. Colagiovanni the BOCES Tech Award for 2009.



Maplewood third-graders in Ms. Colagiovanni's class wrote and produced multiplication rap videos as one of their goals to master their multiplication facts in a timely manner. Here they are viewing one of those videos on Teachertube.com.

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