

Chippewa Schools have come a LONG ways toward acquiring and using technology in the last 3 years. If you walk into classrooms you are likely to see engaged, excited students standing at the interactive whiteboards where whatever is on the teacher's computer is being shown on the whiteboard with a projector mounted from the ceiling. They may be writing with virtual ink. They may be highlighting words on a word find, writing in the answers on a crossword, moving words over to go with the proper definitions. You really need to stop in and watch. It is so exciting!

Now we have a brand new technology to further this process. Turning Point Student Response Systems

(otherwise known as 'clickers') allow teachers to assess student knowledge 'on the fly'. They can create questions and students can respond using the small clickers. Answers can be in the form of true/false, multiple choice or extended responses.



Students using clickers in Mike William's class at Chippewa Middle School.

Typically, students may shy away from answering an instructor's question. This "intimidation factor" can limit student-teacher interaction for a select few. The 'clickers' can compensate for these challenges by offering all students--not just a vocal minority--the opportunity to answer the instructor's questions.

All responses are anonymous so the students aren't as inhibited to give their answers. The program generates a report back on the teacher's computer for each child allowing the teacher to know if there is a level of understanding and they can continue or if there is a need to re-teach.

Instructors can use student responses to generate dialogue, respond to misconceptions, address ambiguities, open new avenues of discussion, and otherwise engage the class. Clickers merely lay the groundwork for this interactivity.

We were able to order 5 classroom sets of these for each building this past summer. On Sept. 17th, a small group of teachers from each building attended a half day training to begin to learn how to use them. They will help support other teachers as they learn to use them.

We are so grateful for the commitment of the Board of Education, the Treasurer and the teachers that allows this kind of progress to happen. Our students are very fortunate to be a part of a district that is so committed to creating and supporting exciting, engaging and productive classrooms.