Middle School Students Receive iPads to Study Algebra

September 10, 2010 (San Francisco) – Students in one Algebra class at Presidio Middle School today received their very own Apple iPads as part of a year-long pilot of a new full-curriculum Algebra application for the popular hi-tech tool.

With their new iPads, students will receive feedback on practice questions, take notes, receive guided instruction, see video lessons, and more with the touch of a finger. The app’s multi-dimensional functioning combines instruction, ongoing support and intervention, which will allow teachers and students to customize how they learn Algebra.

The pilot was launched this week by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt across California in select classrooms: Long Beach Unified, Fresno Unified, Riverside Unified, and San Francisco Unified School Districts. In all, 400 students received iPads for the school year.

Enthusiastic students in an Algebra class at Presidio Middle School were introduced to their new iPad today and received their first lesson by Holt Algebra Author Dr. Ed Burger. Professor Berger, from Williams College, demonstrated how students could receive clues when they were stuck with solving a problem, watch videos to hear an animated explanation of a mathematical concept, and record notes for later reference.

After watching the students learn with their iPads, Superintendent Carlos Garcia, an advocate for the use of innovative technology to engage students in learning, said, “This is a dream come true.”

Empirical Education Inc., a Silicon Valley-based research organization, will conduct scientific research to compare students using the new iPad-delivered content to those using the conventional textbook. A report of the research findings is expected in fall 2011.

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