

Eastern Iowa School District Teachers Capture Lessons with Ease Using Juno Classroom Sound System

Stephanie Childers, AuD., CCC-A, is an audiologist for the Mississippi Bend Area Education Agency (AEA) — one of nine AEAs created by Iowa State Legislature to promote equal educational opportunities for children. Dr. Childers provides consulting and teaching services to three school districts in Eastern Iowa, to improve learning for children with hearing loss. When she came across a lesson-capture technology that did a stellar job of meeting this student population's needs while lowering teacher workload, she was eager to share it with her schools.

The Challenge: Missed Lessons Put Students Behind, Add Work for Teachers

Teachers in the Eastern Iowa school districts traditionally spent numerous hours per week reviewing missed classroom instruction with students. Missing lessons poses a significant problem for general-education students — but the problem is compounded for students who are “at-risk,” have special learning needs, or have a hearing loss.

Dr. Childers knew her school districts would benefit from high-performing lesson-capture systems. This would enable students to access missed lessons without adding a burden on the teachers.

One district was already using an audio system with lesson capture, but according to Dr. Childers it wasn't intuitive. It created a lot of extra work for teachers—requiring them to take several steps to record, file and post a lesson. Dr. Childers wanted a system that could fully capture and store a lesson at the touch of a button.

So in late 2012, she began the search for a high-performing classroom audio system with a sophisticated, yet easy-to-use lesson capture and sharing technology.

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The Solution: Juno Advanced Classroom Audio System



After researching all the classroom communication tools on the market, Dr. Childers found her clear favorite — FrontRow Juno®. Juno is the world's most advanced tool of its kind on the market. It combines the convenience of portable audio products with the sound quality of installed systems. Juno exceeded the capabilities of any other sound device and offered a sophisticated voice-activated lesson capture and sharing feature.

“Juno has everything we need in a single unit,” Dr. Childers says. “It's installation-free, offers outstanding sound quality and coverage, provides easy integration with PFM systems, and — most important to us — enables easy lesson capture.”

With Juno, teachers simply push a button or issue a simple voice command to begin, pause or stop a lesson capture. Juno automatically builds a video, or “screencast,” of whatever the teacher shows on the interactive whiteboard or computer — from a written lesson, math problem, presentation, movie or webpage. Juno automatically titles the lesson with the right period and subject.

The FrontRow Juno system is an installation-free infrared amplification system with a lightweight teacher microphone. “Juno has everything we need in a single unit,” says Stephanie Childers.

What used to take teachers significant after-school time and many extra steps — including processing, editing, saving and posting the screencast — is now all done automatically by Juno.

“Some teachers didn’t feel they had the skills to process and post their videos, and others didn’t have the extra time to do it,” Dr. Childers says. “Since Juno does all that work for them, it makes capturing lessons much more accessible to more teachers — which ultimately benefits more students.”

Students who missed a class or want a refresher course can view the lesson on the teacher’s webpage or any other shared folder, like Google Drive® or Dropbox®. Parents can also view the lesson and see what their student is studying, allowing them to support their child more easily than before.

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The Results: Ease of Lesson Capture Benefits Teachers and Students

Across the board, Juno has helped Dr. Childers’ teachers easily capture lessons to benefit students.

For example, Tanise Colvin is an eighth-grade language-arts teacher at Pleasant Valley Junior High School in LeClaire, Iowa. In one of her classes, two-thirds of the class is on an Individualized Education Program (IEP) or defined as “at-risk”, and she was given a Juno to help address the needs of this student population. When she began to use the system, she realized that all her students in the classroom benefitted.

“I feel like I don’t have to repeat directions multiple times, which saves valuable class time,” Colvin says. “Also, I don’t have spend so many hours during the week helping absent students catch up on what they missed. They can watch the video from that day and review the missed material quickly.”



Tanise Colvin with her Juno.



Students can easily access lessons for review later.

In the classrooms using Juno, the Eastern Iowa school districts have seen a dramatic improvement in student performance—especially in the upper grades where students must retain lecture information in order to succeed. Dr. Childers attributes this success to the fact that students not only hear lessons better in the classroom, but can easily access lessons for review later.

According to Dr. Childers, all the teachers using Juno have shared positive feedback.

“I love Juno,” Colvin says. “It has great sound amplification, and the lesson-capture feature is quick and easy. The equipment is reliable and organizes the videos quickly—and the videos are high-quality. I think all teachers should have access to the Juno system.”

About FrontRow

Since 1963, FrontRow’s extensive acoustic and audiological products and experience have helped teachers bring learning to life. FrontRow systems are designed with a deep understanding of speech intelligibility, childhood development, evolving technology and real-world usability.

FrontRow classroom amplification systems can vastly improve a teacher’s clarity so that children in the back of the classroom hear as clearly as those in the front. FrontRow products are practical, cost-efficient solutions for improving instructional quality in more than 60 countries and tens of thousands of classrooms worldwide.