



**The TEACHER CENTER of Broome County
Teacher Study Group Grant Award
Summer 2004**

**FINAL REPORT
DOCUMENT PROCESSES AND OUTCOMES**

STUDY GROUP TOPIC: Computerized Measurement in Middle School

List of group members: Jim Mercik, Joel Laczak, Lisa Hrehor

**The final report must be word-processed and submitted both in print and on disk using this form.
Include information under each of the following headings.**

Describe the initial goal of the group noting any adjustments that had to be made as time passed.

The initial goal of this group was to integrate computer measurement technology into middle school math, science, and physical education.

Describe the ACTION PLAN that the group followed.

Our group wanted to learn to use a variety on Vernier Probes as well as the Polar Heart rate Monitor. We wanted to learn how we could integrate the data collected from these probes into math, science, and physical education. We also needed to learn how the different probes collected data and displayed the information on the lap top computers.

Once we have learned the probes, we wanted to create an activity that could be used in all three of our classes.

Describe how the action plan was implemented.

We met three different days in July. At the beginning of the meeting, we would work on using a certain probe or monitor and collect data in as many ways as we could think of. When we learned to ability of the probe, we discussed how we could apply it to our three classes. We decided that the heart rate monitor and the pressure probes could easily be integrated into our respective disciplines. The motion sensor was too sensitive and did not produce reliable data, so we decided that we would not use this probe.

Evaluation of the impact of the study group effort on teacher/student performance.

- How has this study group changed you as a teacher? Do you anticipate that any of your teaching practices will have changed?

This study group provided us with a new source of technology to incorporate into our classrooms. We plan to utilize the lap top computers, probes, and software into a variety of instructional units.

- What evidence do you expect to see of student achievement is improving as a result of your participating in this study group?

We expect to see an increase in active student learning, student-centered, hands on activities, and student acknowledgment of the interdisciplinary nature of our disciplines.

- What evidence is there that the goals of the study group has/has not been met?

Through extensive experimentation with the probes, we learned which ones would be best to use with the students. We also learned which ones are too sensitive to be used in the classroom.

Comment on the value of the study group process? Did it work for you?

The diversity on the backgrounds and knowledge base contributed to the overall success and understanding of how this technology can be used. We feel that this was a great opportunity to share our individual strengths. This study group process worked very well for us.

How can we make this study group program better?

We were pleased with the entire process. The initial grant writing phase helped us to get organized and the flexibility of meeting times and places was convenient to our schedules.