

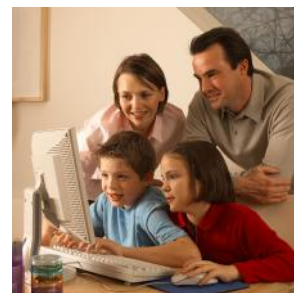
Click to Meet® Desktop Conferencing Platform Meets the Demands of a World Leader in Online Education

The Mission

The Potter's School (TPS) provides a complete curriculum of junior and senior high school courses to home educated students throughout the world – delivering hundreds of classes to over 1,300 students in more than 40 countries.

The Challenge

TPS needed a robust desktop conferencing solution that would accommodate users with a broad variety of connection configurations and speeds in the same conference session. With course offerings running the gamut from Calculus to Music Appreciation, TPS also required a full range of interactive presentation tools that would be easy to use and manage for both instructors and students.



The Solution

Click to Meet offered the right combination of capability, flexibility and reliability to meet the demanding needs of this world leader in on-line education. The Click to Meet platform is an easy-to-use solution, with servers centrally managed by one technical person. Click to Meet manages audio and video quality issues over low-bandwidth connections in mixed bandwidth conferences. Robust data collaboration tools enable full markup capability during presentations, which makes the "classroom" experience truly interactive. Since TPS serves primarily young students and their families, security against unauthorized intrusion was a major concern. Being a Web-based interface, Click to Meet provides a customizable solution that can be tied into existing web sites and secure databases.

"However, our most important criteria for choosing a conferencing solution was not technical," according to Janna Gilbert, Director of The Potter's School. "We use technology to enable and enhance education, but we want the technology to become transparent so the teachers don't have to think about it and students forget they are thousands of miles apart from one another. Click to Meet provides this for us."

The Result

Experience has proven that TPS students score well above national standards and gain admission to top universities.

The Click to Meet platform provides an effective user-friendly desktop conferencing solution that provides more tools than traditional brick-and-mortar classrooms. "The French teacher can take students to online Paris cafés," says Janna Gilbert, TPS Director. "The Classics teacher can take students to Greek and Roman archeological sites, and the Journalism teacher can show students the front pages of newspapers all over the world." Expert guest speakers are also be invited. Speaking via the Internet is an incredible convenience and saves costs.

"With Click to Meet conferencing we are preparing students to be comfortable in a globally connected world where walls and distances are no longer significant factors that keep people apart."
Janna Gilbert, The Potter's School

Allowing students from all parts of the world to join a single, unified "classroom" is another benefit provided by Click to Meet. When world events unfold at record speed, TPS can set up a virtual news bureau on the spot. One Journalism teacher reports: "Through one online source we were able to see the front pages of almost every newspaper in the world and compare their coverage of a major world the event. That year I had two students in a Middle Eastern Moslem country. They gave us a firsthand look at events from the Arab perspective, including a live interview. We were the only high school, and probably the only college, newspaper with a Middle East news bureau. It added depth and reality to what we were doing in the classroom."

Looking Forward

Today, TPS uses the Internet and RADVISION's video network infrastructure and desktop conferencing solutions to connect the home education community across the globe. TPS operates private meeting rooms in which students around the world globe study together, have group meetings, or video chat for fun. Other added benefits include an on-line school yearbook, e-zine school newspaper, and open-topic discussion forums. RADVISION is helping the Potter's School continually seeks ways to use the Internet to broaden and enhance the home education community experience.