



“Campus Pack has given our students access to Web 2.0 technologies in a safe, secure environment.”

Kimberly Leblanc  
Coordinator of eLearning  
Calcasieu Parish School System



## Campus Pack™ in Action:

### Wikis, Blogs, and Podcasts Help Fifth Graders Learn and Go Green

Can Web 2.0 technologies improve learning outcomes for students and help them acquire the confidence, knowledge, and technical expertise they will need in the future? Fifth graders at Moss Bluff Elementary in Louisiana’s Calcasieu Parish School System are experiencing first-hand how Campus Pack™ wikis, blogs, and podcasts keep learning fun and exciting—and relevant.

#### Achievement through Web 2.0

Calcasieu Parish School System (CPSB) in southwest Louisiana is the sixth largest school district in the state, with approximately 5,000 employees, more than 32,000 students, and over 60 schools and educational facilities.

The school system’s Technology Department believes that technology proficient teachers and 21st century tools for learning are critical for increasing student achievement. In keeping with this directive it has made the social learning platform Campus Pack™ available throughout the CPSB schools.

“This suite of products has given our students the opportunity to express themselves, actively engage within projects, and collaborate with others utilizing 21st century tools and skills,” says Kimberly Leblanc, Coordinator of CPSB eLearning.

#### Expert at Learning

Ashleigh Schulz, fifth grade English Language Arts teacher at Moss Bluff Elementary, quickly embraced the wiki, blog, and podcast features of Campus Pack—using them to enhance her lessons in ways that allow her students to create, explore, and think more deeply about the content while at the same time acting as peer-educators.

“I run my classroom with a student-centered learning approach,” she explains. “My students become responsible for the task of “learning” in the sense of exploring and redelivering the material to the class. They retain more because they become the “expert” on the material.”

Students access Campus Pack blogs and wikis from their classroom as well as from home to complete assignments involving Internet research and report and responsive writing. Using these Web 2.0 technologies, they are able to interact and work

## Bloggging in Campus Pack™

Additional examples of how Schulz uses bloggging in her classroom include:

- ▶ Daily/Weekly News Reporter—a different student blogs daily about the lessons and things that occurred during the day. At the end of the week, a student then creates a “week in review” podcast to highlight all the things that we learned.
- ▶ Literacy Circles—students can have a dialog about a particular book (book club) without having to actually “meet” during the week.
- ▶ Science Hot Topic—students were able to research and post an interesting topic. This practice quickly moved from weekly to an everyday occurrence.
- ▶ Novel study—students all read an assigned novel chapter by chapter and then discuss certain questions through a book discussion blog that is posted for each chapter.



cooperatively with fellow classmates, offering insights and suggestions for improvement as well as encouragement when fellow students appear to be struggling with the material. Recording podcasts allows students to show their personality and knowledge about specific topics while creating an auditory study tool that can be shared at home. Songs and helpful hints and rhymes are also downloaded to podcasts to help in the mastery of particular lessons.

By using the Campus Pack social learning platform, Schulz finds that her students have become more self confident and motivated to learn. Shy students or those who are functioning at a lower level begin to come out of their shell and respond through blogs where they otherwise would not have spoken up in class. Students have also become more sophisticated and detailed in their written responses—finding their “voice” and collaborating in new ways.

### The Three Rs

Schulz’s philosophy behind using the Campus Pack tools is to not only enhance her lessons with technology that interests her students, but also to

help the environment. “I try to live by the 3 Rs—reduce, reuse, and recycle. By using these tools, I am “going green” and encouraging my students to do so, as well.”

Students submit their spelling homework and essays through discussion boards to minimize paper use. They are also able to create wikis about research topics that can be graded in a paper-free environment.

According to Schulz, any question she would normally pose verbally to students can be posted on a blog, allowing the fifth graders to share exactly how they feel about the topic and creating a non-restrictive environment that allows them to connect with teacher and fellow students in meaningful ways.

“Using technology in this way makes me a better teacher simply because I am tapping into my students’ interests in many different areas as well as teaching them content,” says Schulz. “I just love to sneak in teaching through these explorations!”

A screenshot of a web application interface for Calcasieu Parish Public Schools. The header includes the school name, a search bar, and navigation links like Home, Help, and Logout. Below the header is a menu with categories such as My CPSS, System Admin, Board Briefs, School News, Elementary, Middle, High, BB Help, Content Collection, Courses, Scholar, and Parent/Student Resources. The main content area shows a breadcrumb trail: MOSES BLUFF ELEMENTARY &gt; JASLEIGH SCHULZ (CAL STU MBELE OSA SPKS ASCH) &gt; CLASS INFORMATION &gt; SCIENCE &gt; UNIT 1: PROPERTIES &gt; ATOMS. The page title is "Atoms". The content area lists several items: "Atom/Physical &amp; Chemical Change Study Guide" (Atoms and Chemicalstudyguide.doc (21 KB)), "Atom and Chemical/Physical Changes Study Guide" (Listen and download our study guide to your mp3 player!), "Mrs. Schulz's Homeroom Atoms Family Theme Song", "Mrs. Snider's Homeroom Atoms Family Theme Song" (Mrs. Snider's homeroom singing the "Atoms Family" theme song), and "Mr. Chamblee's Homeroom Atoms Family Theme Song". A left sidebar contains navigation links: Announcements, About Mrs. Schulz, Class Information, Discussion Board, Quality Corner, Super Students, Photo Gallery, Cool Websites, Tools, and MBE Conference. At the bottom of the sidebar are "Tools" links: Communication, Class Tools, and My Portfolios.

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