

Active Classroom Spotlight

Belle Terre Elementary School Staff

Belle Terre Elementary School*
Palm Coast, FL
Teachers: 94
Students: 1,400

Flagler County School District*
Schools: 17
Students: 13,007

Class: 22–24 students,
4th grade
Teacher: Melissa Nelson-Irving
Configuration: 360-classroom,
Apple iPads, 70" large displays,
AirPlay, projector, document
camera, LearnFit Desks



*When asked how they would prefer to take their standardized year-end tests, these young 4th graders overwhelming responded:
"STANDING UP!"*



About Belle Terre Elementary & Flagler School District

Belle Terre Elementary School's goal is to increase student achievement by providing collaborative efforts that integrate both traditional and innovative approaches to education in a positive school environment while encouraging confidence and self-esteem within all students; involving parents, community, and school staff.

At Belle Terre, and other schools in the Flagler district, teachers live by the "EMMA" motto: **E**ducators **M**ust **M**ove **A**round. With LearnFit desks, every inch of the classroom is utilized to promote student engagement and learning.

From the Teacher & Classroom – Melissa Nelson-Irving

Melissa Nelson-Irving reports that the effortless reconfiguration of her classrooms has brought new dimension to her teaching style and curriculum: students move quickly in and out of various formations, from individual work, to partnering, small and large groups, rows and lecture configurations without wasting precious classroom time. Maintaining student attention during the instruction is no longer a challenge. The students don't look for excuses to disrupt the flow of learning. Their need to fidget is answered by the adjustability and mobility of the LearnFit. Even these young 4th graders are aware of the difference the mobile standing desks make—in fact, when asked how they would prefer to take their standardized year-end tests, they overwhelming responded: "STANDING UP!"



From the Assistant Principal's Office – Anna Crawford

Why was this class chosen for a LearnFit pilot?

"As we look to move away from the 'traditional classroom,' Melissa Nelson-Irving was chosen because she was willing to embrace the challenge of replacing traditional desks in her classroom during the middle of the school year. We also thought that because this classroom provides student-issued iPad tablets, the LearnFit would accommodate iPad usage easily. Storage for books was not needed because everything was stored on the actual iPad."

* Source: CCD Public Schools Data
2011–12 school year,
National Center for
Education Statistics

The LearnFit provided a standing desk option for the trial, plus brought new possibilities into their curriculum delivery. "Melissa Nelson-Irving was also chosen because she is a superior teacher who demands innovation of herself and her students, and she has led the iPad initiative in the school."

How have LearnFit desks been received by other staff?

According to Anna Crawford, "The LearnFit desk is something that all of our faculty would like to have! Our teachers continuously ask for class sets and one that they can teach from." Teachers who have actually had the opportunity to test them have given very positive reviews. "What teacher wouldn't want a device that fosters creativity and encourages collaboration while increasing your learning per square footage without physical construction? This is a culture that can be seen within RISE and felt throughout the campus."

How have LearnFit desks been received by students?

Belle Terre Elementary also discovered that the LearnFit desk completely changed the climate and culture of the RISE classroom. The desks allowed greater collaboration in both whole groups and small group settings. Students expressed that they feel more alert and have greater control over their learning and learning environment. Additionally, students have expressed a greater awareness in their health and wellbeing because they have studied the potential benefits of the LearnFit desks.

Objectives of employing LearnFits, and what you hope to gain?

"Our main objective was to improve student achievement while raising activity, health and well-being. We wanted to offer an environment that promotes a positive lifestyle change and also something that is exciting—something that keeps our students coming back and looking forward to the next day." The RISE classroom is unique because it does all of that while continuing to evolve into the perfect platform for student driven collaboration. "We needed students to be able to move around the classroom, to group up for collaborative projects and be able to follow the lesson around. The LearnFits help us accomplish this effortlessly."



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