



Grand Blanc Community Schools Returns to Jupiter Ed

Grand Blanc Community Schools, in Michigan, has returned to the Jupiter Ed community. As of Fall 2015, they are now using the Jupiter iO all-in-one cloud-based solution for their 8700 students in seven elementary schools, two middle schools, and one high school.

Grand Blanc was already very experienced with Jupiter Ed. From 2008 to 2012 their teachers used the Jupiter gradebook, then the district switched to a new Student Information System which already included a gradebook, so they discontinued Jupiter. Much to their disappointment, the other system lost data, and their staff complained about the vendor's general lack of technical support and failure to deliver promised new features. Meanwhile their teachers expressed how much they missed the Jupiter gradebook.

Later, the district was in need of a solution for online testing and analytics, which are features that Jupiter Ed had developed in the past few years. They also took interest in Jupiter's features for automatic class scheduling, state reporting, discussion forums, online homework dropbox and essay mark up. Driven by their positive experience with Jupiter in the past, Grand Blanc chose to adopt the new Jupiter iO all-in-one solution.

"The support from Jupiter is much appreciated," said Amber Hall, Curriculum Director for Grand Blanc. "Frankly, the support, along with the user-friendliness of the system is what is bringing our district back to using the system."

All About the Academics

Grand Blanc schools are focusing on improving their students' already impressive academic achievements year after year. Grand Blanc students in all grade levels compete in several academic competitions, winning Grand Blanc Community Schools state and national championships, as well as placement in worldwide competitions.

For example, Grand Blanc high school students from the Virtual Enterprise International class placed third out of fifty-two schools at the Chicago Trade Show competition. A Grand Blanc sixth grade student placed second at the National Geography Bee, and the high school robotics team made it to the quarter-finals for their division of the World Robotics Competition. At one middle school, an all-girl robotics team competed at the state, national, and world level. These students are making a name for themselves!

The district has a strong focus on philanthropy, donating to several causes that benefit children with special needs. Grand Blanc high school students were the first in their county to become involved with a program called LINKS. LINKS connects general education students with autistic students, to assist with the socialization and coping skills of autistic students. They raised \$17,000 for the Special Olympics and are registered to participate in the Unified Relay Across America, to carry the torch for a portion of the trip to the Special Olympics World Games. Grand Blanc Community Schools are teaching their students to go boldly in the direction of their dreams while also being active citizens of the world and their community.

Academically, the district only continues to improve. This year, Grand Blanc high school students took a combined 938 Advanced Placement tests, the highest number in Grand Blanc history. The junior class of the high school also improved on the ACT scores of the previous year's junior class in every subject, resulting in a higher composite score.

Welcome Home, Grand Blanc

By converting to Jupiter iO, Grand Blanc Community Schools are shortening the distance between parent-teacher communication. The submission of assignments is now easier for students, teachers can now grade with ease, and administrators have easy access to student data.

"Jupiter iO has streamlined grading significantly, and I even find my students write more extensively using Jupiter than they do by hand," said Daniel Clark at Grand Blanc High School.

Jupiter Ed is proud to welcome this exemplary and constantly improving district to our family! The district's motto of "A Tradition of Excellence" exemplifies why it has chosen Jupiter iO as their all-in-one, cloud-based solution.