



## eInstruction Northwest News

### New Pricing – New Products – Limited Time Offer Specials

In June, 2006, we are introducing our latest CPS-RF model which will allow for numeric entry, including fractions, at a lower cost than our current RF model. We have a limited number of the current RF pads and receivers available at special “Buy 1 Get 1 Free” pricing while supplies last. In addition, our award winning CPS infrared pads will get a new sleek and shiny look, but will be interchangeable with the current IR pads and receivers.

As always, it is a good idea to purchase our Professional Development Seminar package if you are planning to purchase 2 or more systems. You can receive a quote for the very best pricing options by emailing <mailto:amy@blueclickers.com> or <mailto:shannon@blueclickers.com>.



#### Basic product pricing:

- 32-pad IR system = \$1995 + \$25 S&H
- 24-pad IR system = \$1495 + \$25 S&H
- New 32-pad RF system = \$2245 + \$25 S&H *projected to be available June, 2006*
- New 24-pad RF system = \$2995 + \$25 S&H *projected to be available June, 2006*
- CPS Chalkboard = \$350 + \$15 S&H

#### Current Specials

- Current 32-pad RF system = \$3850 + \$25 S&H (receive 2 for 1)
- Current 24-pad RF system = \$2900 + \$25 S&H (receive 2 for 1)

#### *While supplies last!*

CPS Chalkboard/Content Special (with CPS system purchase)  
= \$150 + \$15 S&H

*Until March 31, 2006!*

### Quick Short Flash Tutorials for CPS 3.6 (54 short videos covering every task)

Check out <http://www.blueclickers.com/training.html> and refresh your memory or learn a new way to use CPS. Each tutorial follows the same tasks we teach at our seminars and each is just a few minutes in length allowing you to quickly target those areas you’ve wanted to learn or review. If you haven’t upgraded to 3.6, you can do so by going to <http://www.einstruction.com> and clicking on Downloads. Choose CPS Windows Update from the dropdown menu or email your name and address to <mailto:amy@blueclickers.com> and we’ll put a disk in the mail to you.



## **New Users since Fall 2005 - Welcome to the Northwest CPS Users' Community!**

Battleground SD, WA  
Canfield Middle School Coeur d'Alene SD, ID  
Canyon View JHS Alpine SD, UT  
Chain Lake Elementary School Monroe SD, WA  
Columbia SD Hunters, WA  
Crescent View MS Jordan SD, UT  
ESD 112 Vancouver, WA  
Fruitland MS Fruitland SD, ID  
Granger School District Granger, WA  
Granite Technical Institute Granite SD, UT  
Hillcrest HS Jordan SD, UT  
Jordan Curriculum Department Jordan SD, UT  
Kuna HS Kuna SD, ID  
Lakes Middle School Coeur d'Alene SD, ID  
McKinley ES Boise SD, ID  
Midway MS Jefferson SD, ID  
Mountain View ES Boise SD, ID  
Mountain View HS Meridian SD, ID  
Orofino HS Orofino SD, ID  
Pacific Lutheran University Economics Department  
Pleasant Grove JHS Alpine SD, UT  
Preston HS Preston SD, ID  
Richland SD Richland SD, WA  
Salmon MS/HS Salmon SD, ID  
SeaTac Firefighters Seattle  
Seattle SD #1 Seattle, WA  
Spanaway Lake High School Bethel SD, WA  
Sprucewood ES Jordan SD, UT  
Washington State University College of Environmental Sciences  
Washington State University College of Pharmacy  
Washington State University College of Vet Medicine  
Watson Furniture Poulsbo, WA  
West JHS Boise SD, ID  
White Pine ES Boise SD, ID  
Willowcreek Middle School Alpine SD, UT  
Yakima Public Schools Yakima SD, WA

## **New Software Features – CPS 4.0 – Coming in June 2006!**

The eInstruction software development team has been hard at work adding a new feature set to the CPS software. We'll be sure to notify you as soon as it is released!

### **1. Data Slicing**

Teachers will be able to view a few more details regarding student responses:

- Time it takes for each response
- Histograms will be available after the session ends in the reports session.
- Histograms will have a better look and feel.
- Histograms can be created to show more than one question's responses.
  - For example, a teacher could ask Question 1 "What team are you on?" Red, Blue or Green?
  - Next he or she could ask Question 2 "Was Abraham Lincoln the first Republican president?" Yes or No.
  - Now, the teacher can view responses and find out:
    - How many Red team students chose Yes
    - How many Blue and Green team students chose No
    - How many Red team students chose Yes and then got Question 3 correct.
    - What was the average response time for students who answered Yes to Question 2?

### **2. Content Search and Download within CPS**

This allows teachers to search and download content from publishers that may or may not be in ExamView. Also planned is a way for teachers to post and share questions with others, either free or for a fee. If you've ever downloaded music from iTunes, you can begin to imagine the possibilities.

### **3. CPS Toolbar available in PowerPoint**

- Teachers will be able to compose and engage questions in PowerPoint.
- These questions will actually be authored in both CPS and PowerPoint and will be available to engage from either program. A lesson will be created in CPS while typing in PowerPoint.

**4. For Higher Ed users** we will have better integration with Blackboard and WebCT.

**5. Spell check is a high priority** and MIGHT be there by the June release. Equation Editor is not as high of a priority, but is on the list. It won't be available by June, however.

## **Survey Results—Gift Card Winner -- Responses from Blueclickers.com**



Thank you for all of the great responses! We had over 100 users participate in the survey between December 10 and January 31. We've summarized and responded to the themes here in the newsletter. You can view the full set of responses (warts and all!) at <http://www.blueclickers.com>. Here, we've reprinted a sampling of the short answer responses and then addressed the issues raised by others. Our goal is to use the survey results to improve our service to you and create an opportunity for you to learn from how other teachers are experiencing success with CPS in their classrooms.

The winner of the \$75 Gift Card to Barnes and Noble is...Mrs. B, Middle School Teacher from Coeur d'Alene, Idaho!



### **What level do you teach?**

- 34% A: Elementary
- 29% B: Middle School/Junior High School
- 35% C: High School
- 5% D: Higher Education



### **How often do you use CPS?**

- 9% A: Everyday
- 33% B: A few times per week
- 13% C: Once per week
- 30% D: A few times per month
- 8% E: Once per month
- 8% F: Once per term



### **Which of the following have you used with your students? (More than one answer allowed)**

- 93% A: Questions I've written in CPS
- 22% B: Holiday Trivia Questions
- 42% C: ExamView Questions
- 22% D: Questions imported from an RTF (Word) file
- 44% E: Sample ISAT Questions



### **Which of the following CPS features have you used in your classroom?**

- 82% A: Teacher Managed Assessment
- 29% B: CPS with PowerPoint
- 43% C: Student Managed Assessment
- 28% D: Student Managed Practice
- 37% E: Teacher-Led Student Managed Assessment
- 18% F: Anonymous Mode
- 20% G: There it Is! Team Activity
- 30% H: Challenge Board Team Activity
- 18% I: CPS Grade Book
- 5% J: Exporting reports to your own grade book



### **Who do you think benefits more from using CPS?**

- 9% Boys

1% Girls  
90% Both



## What would help you use CPS more often?

TIME! The overwhelming response to this question was that time is an issue for many teachers. Well, we wish we could help you stretch your time and we can! We suggest Verbal and FastGrade modes. You can use your textbook and web materials and even whole group Plato/Internet activities with our Verbal mode. And, you can create quick answer keys with FastGrade allowing you to use the clickers to collect answers without ever typing in a question. Want to know more? We've scheduled some online demonstrations to show you how. All you need is a browser and telephone to join us.

- March 7 4:00 pm Pacific Time/5:00 a.m. Mountain Time
- March 15 6:00 am Pacific Time/7:00 a.m. Mountain Time

Can't make these times? We'll record these sessions and post them to blueclickers.com. They will be available for playback any time! Check back often!



## Has CPS provided you with a No Child Left Behind success story? Please explain.

- It is very motivating to my not-so-motivated students. Those kids who struggle with written work are doing better when they can click in their choices.
- We have found that using the CPS system coupled with the sample ISAT questions to be helpful with preparing our children to meet AYP standards.
- it has helped improve isat scores
- I have used the clickers for the last 3 years and I haven't found any other tool that compares to the effectiveness of student performance and participation.
- Yes, realizing when kids don't understand, and I assumed they did because of daily work, which was most likely copied or shared among students
- Yes, I have a student who has never spoken a word in class. He is a very bright young man. I know this because of the results gathered through CPS.
- It has really helped improve the ISAT scores in my class.
- We always use the CPS units before ISAT testing. It has proven to be a successful tool. Students love the interactive part of the program. Rather than sit and mark answers on a paper, they feel more involved.
- Yes, students in our district who attend summer school used the CPS systems everyday. About 85% of those students were able to pass their ISAT tests.
- I have several that are very timid and shy to even express themselves in class. When we do the CPS, they come alive. It's awesome.
- I don't know if it is really a success story, but I really like using the clickers to prepare for our ISAT reading test. We go through practice ISAT questions as a class. We talk about test taking strategies and students have time to change their answers. After we have practiced, I make a game board up and use that as my assessment to see how well they remember the different types of

questions we answered. Since most students improve every semester on their ISAT scores, I know that this strategy has helped tremendously.

- I think it holds kids accountable everyday in class. They never know when I will ask a verbal question.
- The best thing is that EVERYONE is involved and the students enjoy knowing their grades. When I give tests, students can go at his or her own pace and are more likely to ask for help if they don't understand questions. They also tend to take it more seriously than if they just write the answers on an answer sheet.
- Just that with CPS I can take dull information and make it exciting for everybody. I have used it to teach research paper citations ... and the kids LOVE it? Now when do you get smiles after THAT lesson???
- Not necessarily a NCLB story, but I noticed around a 15% increase in test scores with the implementation of CPS.
- Well, I think in general- I see kids all in tune when I ask questions. They ask if they 'get' to use them on a given day. It seems to me that they like them a lot.
- Just that my students are learning the tricks for taking a multiple-choice test-- which in itself is a skill. The system allows me lots of flexibility with my curriculum.

WASHINGTON TEACHERS: We are working on getting sample WASL questions into CPS. If you have a connection to someone that is involved in the WASL sample questions that OSPI releases, please contact [shannon@blueclickers.com](mailto:shannon@blueclickers.com) We'd like to work together to make as many practice questions available as possible.

IDAHO TEACHERS: The current sample ISAT questions are available for you to download at [www.blueclickers.com](http://www.blueclickers.com). With the upcoming changes to the standards and the ISAT, we'll be creating and distributing more study materials as they become available. Let us know if you come across a good resource! [amy@blueclickers.com](mailto:amy@blueclickers.com)



## **What would help more teachers in your district to adopt CPS?**

MONEY! The overwhelming response to this question was finding funding for this technology. We'd like to share grant success stories with schools looking for funding. If you purchased a set through a grant, please send us the general information and we will post it on blueclickers.com.



## **We will be creating more training videos. What would you like to see demonstrated?**

- Done! Go to <http://www.blueclickers.com/training.html>.



## **Have you had to overcome any obstacles in your classroom to use CPS? If so, please explain.**

- EQUIPMENT set up – The theme here is configuration of the room and having to borrow a set vs. having one always ready.

- Our observations:
  - *For teachers who have their own systems, a ceiling mounted projector seems to help a great deal.*
  - *For teachers who have to share, a wheeled cart with the clickers, receiver, projector and in some cases, a laptop computer have made a big difference in getting things up and running. Teachers can either access their databases from the network or from a USB Flash drive.*
  - *Teachers who can count on having CPS on a regular schedule (every Wednesday or Tuesday and Thursday mornings) are more likely to plan their lessons around using CPS.*



## **Is there anything you wish CPS would do that it doesn't currently do?**

**We've submitted these to the eInstruction software development team. We've also responded (*in italics*) to those issues that may have a possible solution.**

- Bring me coffee? TEE HEE. Not really. I like what it does. Thanks.
- I would like to be able to use the eight choice multiple choice option on a student managed assessment.
- I wish I could control the size of the screen without retyping all the questions in a larger font. (*If you import questions from Word, you can Select All and adjust the font to, say, 22 or 24, and questions will import that way. You can adjust the Default Font in CPS by choosing Settings before you begin editing questions. To change the font of a question, choose Edit, Select All then Edit, Apply Default Font and Color.*)
- Figure out some way to shield the buttons so others can't look to see what their neighbor clicked.
- We would like to be able to use our buildings shared network drive to share tests we have made. But we have to do text only and that is very boring. I would like the pictures to be pasted rather than linked. (*By putting the database and images in a common folder, then saving the folder to the same place on your C: drive, you should be able to share questions with images.*)
- My truck is a little dirty. Do you think CPS could clean it? (grin)
- Spell check. (*This is in the works. We hope by June.*)
- Spell check as you go - red underline like word - or autocorrect some words.
- We have many students (40) and it is annoying to have the student numbers flash back and forth so show their numbers--make the screen bigger so all numbers will show on one screen (*Have you tried the Delivery Option: Auto Show Detached Feedback Grid? This grid is resizable and can hold more numbers without scrolling. If you can find a spot on the screen where it doesn't cover the question, this will work.*)
- Sound. I would like to have sound recorded to the slide presentations. (*If sound is important to you, you can add and audio file - Notes and Media - within the question template. You might also consider authoring questions in PowerPoint with all of its multi-media capabilities.*)
- I wish there was a way that CPS would random scramble the questions and possibly the answers so that if I used the same questions that they would look different from one time to the next.
- I wish that it would allow customizable reports and work as a voting machine for school elections. It can supposedly combine different sessions, but as I practiced with it, it did not really combine them, but rather only counted one.

- Fractions (*This is coming with our new RF system. It will be available in June, 2006 with preorders being taken now: 24-pad system is \$2245 and a 32-pad system is \$2995*)
- Thanks for all your encouragement (*You are welcome!*)
- The only thing I can think of is to make the Bold, Italics and Underline a keyboard shortcut so it doesn't take as long to use those features when writing questions.
- Some sort of feedback for students when they are using it in a testing situation. Right now they do a student managed assessment and then do it 2 or 3 times since they are afraid they have somehow messed up, and they don't know if it 'really' got the answer they wanted it to have. (*Some teachers have the students record their answers as a backup and collect those in case there is a discrepancy. I've never seen CPS record the wrong letter, but have seen students say, "I thought I pushed C."*)
- Have 6 and preferably 8 choices for student managed assessment section.
- I'm not using all it has to offer. I want too but time is a factor.
- Cut and paste. Copy and paste. (*In some cases you can use CTRL-X, CTRL-C and CTRL-V for cut, copy and paste*) Be able to print only one page of a report instead of the whole report. Be able to change font size and/or margins to reformat the report to a more condensed format.
- I'd LOVE the question-making portion to work more like WORD in regards to changing fonts and font size. Maybe the newest version has done that, but that is my only major gripe.
- Be able to download all types of questions...not just exam view. (*This is most likely coming in June!*)
- Show on the screen what #question you are on...or how many questions we have done...for example during There it Is! Games.
- Better reports, adjustable fonts and margins, black-and-white mode for printing as well.
- I wish I didn't need to reduce my toolbar to nothing when CPS is in full screen mode. That is kind of annoying as I can't flip between programs as simply as if the toolbar was showing. (*We've heard the plan is to make CPS more like PowerPoint when you engage it so you won't have to hide the toolbar.*)
- Bridge CPS to Core-plus and to Connected Math.
- Import directly from Word. (*You can do this now! Check out our video at <http://www.blueclickers.com/training.html> . - choose TaskID A21.*)
- I wish that it were easier for two groups to simultaneously do different problems while in teacher-guided formats. I'd like to show two problems at a time.
- Make the screen larger, so that it takes up the entire screen & not just a portion. We have made it work so far, though. We use a PowerPoint as a back drop, so it looks really nice. (*Have you tried changing the resolution of your screen? We have a video on that at <http://www.blueclickers.com/training.html>.)*)
- Run on Windows XP x64.
- It might be nice to have the feature of NOT being able to change your answer. For instance, we did Holiday Trivia and people would click in to try to be first, then discuss the answer and change it. (*The only delivery mode that keeps track of how students click is Student Managed Practice. Here you can see how many clicks it takes to get to the write answer, but you do need to provide the students with a hard copy of the questions.*)