

**Nicholson Technology Academy**  
6006 S. Peoria Chicago, IL 60621  
Mr. Anastasiadis-6<sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher  
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*iPad Executive Summary*

Introduction

The sixth grade teachers wrote the iPad Integration Grant with the intention of enhancing the literacy curriculum at the school. A high interest level book that is utilized by the 6<sup>th</sup> grade team is The Lightning Thief. The teacher's intentions were to provide students with a tool that would support learners at all reading levels. The iPad was the perfect tool. The culminating project was for students to write their own graphic novel of The Lightning Thief. Students would summarize and draw a picture for each chapter. The students would then use their iPads to take a picture of each other as the main character and use the App, *Glow Draw*, to title the picture. This picture would become the cover of the personalized graphic novel.

About Nicholson

Nicholson Technology Academy is a Chicago Public School in the Englewood neighborhood. Some fast facts about Nicholson:

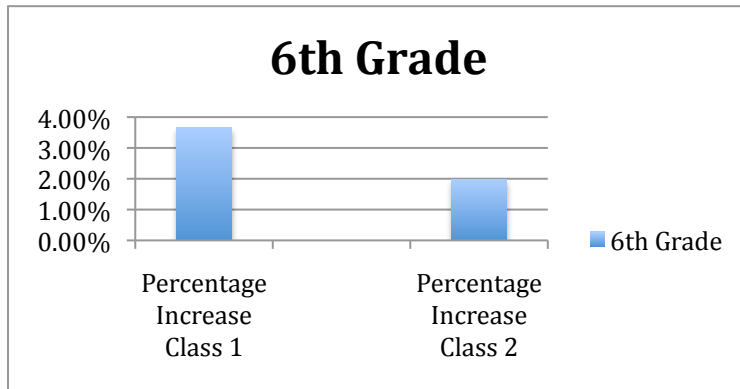
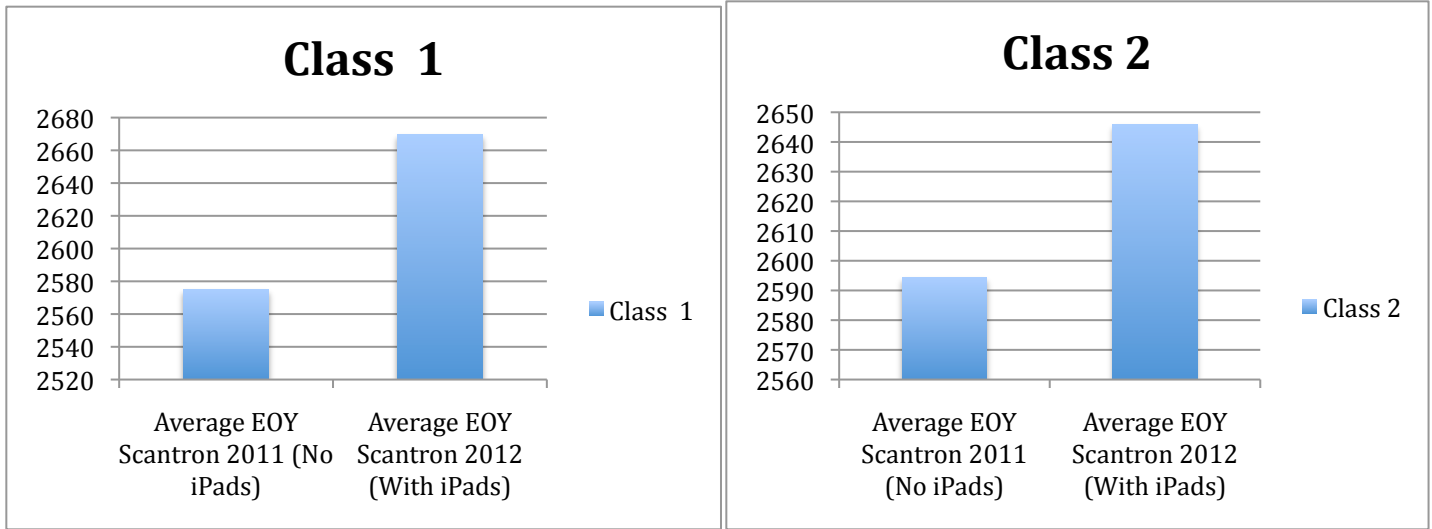
- It serves 477 students in the neighborhood.
- 99% of students are eligible for free and reduced lunch
- ISAT Composite Meets and Exceeds have increased over the past three years from 60 to 70

Nicholson changed from a Math and Science School to a Technology Academy in 2007 when the teachers wrote a Technology Magnet Makeover Grant. This grant gave teachers and students access to the following:

- 3 new iMac labs
- LCD projectors
- Smartboards
- Document cameras
- MacBook computers for each teacher
- Turning Point Clicker Systems

Quantitative Results-Scantron

The students of Nicholson are required to complete the Scantron Assessment. Teachers use this assessment to guide instruction and monitor student growth throughout the year. For this summary, students' End of Year Average (E.O.Y.) 2011 and E.O.Y. 2012 were analyzed. Students did not use the iPads for school year 2010-2011, but did use them for school year 2011-2012. Our findings show that students E.O.Y. Averages in 2012 increased from 2% to 3.5% from the previous year.



Qualitative Results-Anecdotal

The iPads served their main function thoroughly well. Students were eager each day during the reading block to read and listen to the novel. Some of the observations that I made during my students’ reading are:

- Students used the dictionary feature of iBook to find the definition of unknown words.
- Students used the note-taking feature of iBook to write their thinking during reading.
- Students used Google to research questions they had about the text during their reading.
- Students’ share time of the text was more focused than in previous years.
- Students collaborated on the production of each other’s graphic novel.

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