

Putting School on TV By Jason Overhulse

At the Lewis Middle School in Valparaiso, FL, MTV does not exist. They have "SchoolTV." Every morning, a group of ten students produce "Flyte Time." It is the schools' news show, which runs three times a week. Each program is about 8-minutes long, produced live-to-tape.

In the beginning, Keith Kyker, the computer teacher, selected several Focus Enhancements products: the *Videonics TM-3000 Titlemaker*, the *Videonics MX-Pro Video Mixer* and the *TView Gold VGA-TV Converter*. All three products are used daily in the live-to-tape news show.

Titlemaker is used to create graphics that reinforce announcements. These include club news, scrolls of student achievements, such as band awards, sports scores and schedules, "trivia" questions and ending credits. *Video Mixer* is used to select between the four sources that are connected: video camera, *Titlemaker*, computer and VCR. *TView Gold* is used to convert the signal from a computer to video signal. Using PowerPoint, Kyker and his students can now create appealing graphics, a digital slide show and transitional effects.

After a few minutes of training, students are able to operate *Video Mixer* and *Titlemaker*. The *Video Mixer* program has several features the students enjoy using:

- Over 600 available transitions including cuts, fades, wipes, zooms, edges, shapes and trailing effects are used to create the ultimate live video production.
- The Picture-in-Picture mode can show a small video in the corner of the screen while a larger image takes up the rest of the screen.

- Eight available analog source outputs allow the flexibility to set-up a mock-up newsroom with multiple cameras.
- A DVD or VCR is used as a source of video footage to be added to a live broadcast or used to show pre-recorded video footage over close circuit televisions in classrooms.
- The Chroma Key background allows the appearance of an image behind an individual. Students enjoy this feature for producing weather forecasts.

According to Keith, "It would be hard to imagine our School TV program without these crucial products." ■

Jason Overhulse works at Focus Enhancement, FOCUS Enhancements, a video technology company that offers DV mixers, video processors and media servers. www.FOCUSinfo.com



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