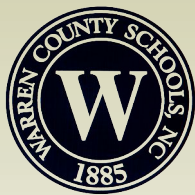# Certiport IC³

Measures Valuable IT Skills and Prepares Students for Further Education and Workforce

IC³

Warren County Middle School

Location:
Warrenton, North Carolina

Total Enrollment:
175 students per year

Success Metrics:

- Basic digital literacy certification
- Preparation for further certifications
- Satisfies state assessment requirements

CERTIPORT®

Warren County Middle School Adds IC³ Certification to Required Electives to Validate Key Digital Literacy Skills

CHALLENGE

Warren County School District's Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs prepare students for the challenging business world and ensure that employers in North Carolina have access to a skilled workforce. The CTE programs are designed to connect middle and high schools with post-secondary institutions and build partnerships with industry.

Warren County Middle School (WCMS) participates in the District's CTE program and serves 600 6th, 7th and 8th graders in a small, rural community in Warren County, North Carolina.

Prior to 2010, the state of North Carolina administered a computer skills test to all WCMS students. In 2011 the test was eliminated and WCMS was required to find their own way to certify students and make sure they met the objectives to move from 8th grade to high school.

WCMS had a popular Business and Information Technology Program, and they began looking for a way to satisfy the state requirements to measure student readiness for high school while increasing the value of the course.

"We wanted to increase the standards for the Business and Information Technology courses, while offering more value to our students with some type of certificate to build their experience and resume," said Ernie Conner, Director of Career and Technical Education, Warren County Schools.

Conner along with Warren County School District administrators looked for a certification solution to measure student technology skills at WCMS. The exam would need to be appropriate for a middle school grade level, cost-effective, and would need to satisfy the North Carolina state assessment requirements.

SOLUTION

Conner had been introduced to the Certiport Internet and Computing Core Certification (IC³®) as a former CTE coordinator in Virginia. IC³ provides students with the foundation of knowledge they need to succeed in environments that require the use of computers and the Internet. The Global Standard 3 is an internationally recognized standard for digital literacy and reflects the most relevant skills needed in today's academic and business environments.

"The IC³ exams met the state assessment requirements perfectly, and we knew offering the certification would give our students the extra value we were looking for," said Conner. "We wanted every one of our middle school students to be familiar with the certification process and learn the basic 21st century technology skills measured with the IC³ exam."

WCMS quickly became a Certiport Authorized Testing Center and adopted the IC³ exams. They offer the IC³ Key Applications exam to 7th graders as part of an 18-week course. The IC³ Living Online and Computer Fundamentals exams are incorporated into an 18-week course for 8th graders. Conner administers all of the exams on campus. Debra Clayton and Andrea Dethmers, Business Education Teachers, teach the required courses.

"All of our students take these courses as required electives," said Clayton. "It is a rigorous and challenging curriculum, and the students have to stay focused to take it to the next level. If they don't pass the IC³ exam the first time, they usually pass it the second time."

WCMS uses curriculum provided by a Certiport partner, CCI Learning Solutions, which incorporates presentations and sample questions to teach students the relevant principles to pass the IC³ exams. All instruction happens at school in a computer lab since many students do not have access to computers at home.

"At first these young 7th and 8th graders are hesitant to take a certification exam, but once they see their peers passing, they want to see their names go up on my wall," said Clayton. "Once they get one of the IC³ modules under their belt, they are motivated to get the rest to earn the whole certification."

RESULT

WCMS Students who pass the IC³ exams are recognized on campus or at graduation for their efforts. In its first year administering IC³, WCMS tested over 100 students in at least one area and 41 students passed the three credentials to become IC³ certified. In only its second year of implementation, an additional 40 students became officially IC³ certified during the Fall 2011 semester. Since the entire Warren County School District only has 2,458 students, WCMS is very proud of their IC³ results.

"The IC³ certification increased the rigor and relevance of our Business and Technology Program," said Conner. "I am the most proud of the fact that we are the only middle school in the entire state of North Carolina to offer IC³. We set the standard and now other middle schools are asking questions and planning to start programs as well."

Clayton believes the IC³ certification is extremely valuable for teaching basic workforce skills. "The advantage of having the IC³ certification is that when these students apply for jobs and colleges, they can have a digital portfolio and show proof of their knowledge. It makes them a little more marketable and tells employers and colleges that they know a more about computers than other candidates."

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Director of Career and
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Warren County Schools

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