



# HoverCam

CASE STUDY



## FAST FACTS

**School:** Val Verde Unified School District

**Website:** [www.valverde.edu](http://www.valverde.edu)

**Location:** Perris, CA and the southern Moreno Valley

**Enrollment:** approx. 19,600 students; 1 pre-school, 12 elementary schools, 4 middle schools, 2 high schools, 1 continuation and 1 virtual school.

**Demographics:** 54 percent Hispanic, 18 percent white, 17 percent black; 79.8 percent free and reduced lunch.

**Challenge:** Provide teachers with basic, affordable 21st-century projection and collaboration tools to increase student achievement.

**Solution:** The HoverCam®

**Results:** Classrooms throughout the district outfitted with affordable document scanner/document camera collaboration tools at a fraction of the cost of alternative products.

**Contact:**  
[contact@thehovercam.com](mailto:contact@thehovercam.com)

## Meeting 21st-Century Classroom Needs

A large California school district looking for affordable instructional technology tools discovered one that goes further than all the rest.

**In search of** an affordable projection system, a teacher in this southern California district thought she had found just the thing. Upon her return from the Computer Using Educators conference, she began to talk about the HoverCam to her technology department. Although the device had the right price point, “We were skeptical until we got a couple of them in the classrooms,” says Phil Harding, Val Verde Unified School District Technology Integration Coordinator. After that, “Teachers were raving and raving about what they were able to do with them,” Phil says.

### Top Tools for Top Schools

Val Verde is a 20,000-student district in Perris, CA, in the southern Moreno Valley, and several of its 20 schools can rightfully boast of being among the top schools in the nation.

Phil Harding works for a tight-knit eight-person department serving the district’s technology needs—with a larger, more loosely associated team of over two dozen ‘teacher technicians’ flanking their efforts. Michael McCormick is the Assistant Superintendent and now a leading proponent of the HoverCam. David Bazan, the district’s Director of Information Technology who takes a “no excuses” approach toward ensuring students are equipped with needed technology, was also instrumental in infusing the district’s classrooms with the tools.

“As a department, we got behind it, saw the value of it and were really impressed with the HoverCam team,” says Phil. “I would give them an A+ in customer service,” he says. “They are *very* responsive.” In fact, the technology department spends a lot of time dealing with vendors from A to Z, from companies as large as Dell to a small firm that helps with their website. “You get different levels of customer service,” says Phil, “But HoverCam gives you *knockout* customer service.”

[www.thehovercam.com](http://www.thehovercam.com)

Pathway Innovations & Technologies, Inc. ■ San Diego CA 92121



“Our society is so much more visual. You’ve got to give teachers the right tools.

The majority of schools are still teaching in the 20th century, not the 21st.”

—Phil Harding, Technology Integration Coordinator, Val Verde Unified School District

When the district held a staff development day, Ji Shen, inventor of the HoverCam and CEO of Pathway Innovations & Technologies, Inc., maker of the HoverCam, came out to deliver several of the seminars himself. “They were a hit!” says Phil of the talks. “For the CEO of the company to come out and to show that sort of care, it was an awesome presentation. Every room they had it in, they were packed up. Teachers see the value of the product.” After teachers began raving of their benefits, “We started multiplying their use,” says Phil.

### Meet ‘Mr. HoverCam’

While there are a whole host of benefits to the HoverCam—based on his experience, Phil was initially concerned how well Pathway would handle any tech support issues. After further investigation, he was happy with what he found. “It’s reliable. My return rate has been less than 1 percent,” he says. “That includes any technical problem. If I’ve had any issue—they replace it. I’ve even had them *hand-delivered* to me.”



In the classroom, teachers use HoverCams many different ways. “I’ve had teachers who

have been the biggest technophobes approach me and say, ‘Phil, that’s the best thing IT has done for us in 10 years!’ I say, ‘No kidding?!’ Now, that’s a pretty serious statement from an elementary or middle school teacher.”


One middle school math teacher uses it to build problems with her students, putting her worksheets underneath the HoverCam, projecting as she goes. “When you start thinking about the impact that has in

mathematics—it’s *very* instructional,” says Phil.

A hands-on leader, Assistant Superintendent Michael McCormick makes his rounds throughout the district. Along the way, he evangelizes on the value of the device. “I don’t care if I’m known as ‘Mr. HoverCam,’” he tells Phil, “I want to get them in every classroom!”

### Seeing is Believing

The district currently has more than 500 HoverCams throughout their classrooms and with a staff of 750—they’re getting close to the goal of one per instructor. The technology department has even incorporated them into their tech specs for principals, recommending them as classroom-useful. “Our society is so much more visual. You’ve got to give teachers the right tools. The majority of schools are still teaching in the 20th century, not the 21st,” Phil says. “We talk about the digital native. Well, they’re running amok!”

Teachers need these tools for a variety of reasons—but most of all, for student achievement, Phil says. “Kids don’t want to hear a lecture for 10 minutes, much less 15. Even a whiteboard is not going to do it for them. They want it more *interactive*, they want it *targeted*. They want to be able to see what the heck they’re doing.” 

### A TRULY USEFUL TOOL

Teachers and technology officials in Val Verde Unified School District had this to say about the HoverCam:

- ☑ saves time grading papers
- ☑ *major* cost savings
- ☑ instant assessments possible
- ☑ very high instructional value
- ☑ a needed and routinely-used device in every classroom

[www.thehovercam.com](http://www.thehovercam.com)

Pathway Innovations & Technologies, Inc. ■ San Diego CA 92121

© Copyright 2011 Pathway Innovations & Technologies, Inc.. All Rights Reserved.

