



Distance Learning Case Study

PROFILE

Safety Harbor Montessori Academy (SHMA) is a private school based in Clearwater, Florida and serves over 200 students from preschool to middle school.



Project Lead
Richard Napolitano
Director of Technology
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Richard Napolitano is a Director of Technology and former middle school teacher of 14 years.

“Allowing students to use Walkabouts from home has been so powerful.”

“ With longer term usage, you could tie it to achievement, overall functioning, and social skills.”

“The blend of academic learning and physical movement is enjoyed by our students, and parents are thrilled to see their children having fun, getting exercise, and learning at the same time!”

- Richard Napolitano

Movement-Based Learning In a Remote Montessori Classroom

Challenge

To implement its distance learning program during COVID-19, Safety Harbor Montessori Academy looked for safe online tools that would support continuity of learning while aligning with Montessori philosophy. As director of technology, Richard Napolitano was charged with finding movement-based resources that could be used from home. Napolitano discovered Walkabouts by ActivEd, web-based lessons for pre-K to second grade students that integrate movement with language arts, math, and reading content.

Solution

Napolitano was impressed with Walkabouts' intuitive interface and engaging lessons. He recognized the benefits of not needing direct instruction or teacher guidance in order to use the platform. He immediately set up accounts, created playlists, and added access links to Google Classroom to make logging in and using Walkabouts simple for both teachers and students alike, from wherever they are.

Outcome

Within the first few weeks of distance learning, SHMA students began posting pictures of themselves using Walkabouts and excitedly sharing how many activities they did each day. Teachers with families at home also leveraged Walkabouts to keep their own kids moving. When school resumes in the fall, SHMA would like to continue leveraging Walkabouts to engage students and ignite learning in the classroom.

Walkabouts is an on-demand, online platform that activates elementary math, language arts, and reading curriculum with short, movement-rich lessons for young students.