

## Windber Area, Westmont Hilltop join together in technology education program

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It's technology in the classroom.

Windber Area and Westmont Hilltop school districts are accustomed to competing against each other in sports and academics. But they will participate together in Pennsylvania's Classrooms for the Future program.

CFF is a three-year, multimillion dollar investment by the state to provide laptop computers, interactive whiteboard technology, high-speed Internet access and state-of-the-art software to high school classrooms across the state.

By joining forces, the districts are able to share resources and create a team of experienced educators to assist CFF teachers to become more effective in incorporating technology in science and math for students at Windber and science and social studies for Westmont students.

Coaches Marlene Harbart, a former teacher and technology integrator for Windber schools, and Kate Deater, a science teacher with 11 years of experience at the high school level, began in the fall with formal training sessions for the district's CFF teachers.

"The great things about this partnership is these two coaches can collaborate and work as a team, and each district has the benefit of the other district's experience," said Susan Anderson, superintendent at Westmont Hilltop.

Westmont teacher Steve Lindberg's science class has been using the Promethean Activboards to illustrate problems and solutions. "The students enjoy using the Activboard stylus to draw diagrams, complete graphs and illustrate examples to other students in the classroom," Lindberg said. "Since having this installed in the room, I've used it almost every day in one way or another."

Deater said that in addition to the training, coaches are available at each location on a rotating schedule so teachers have access to them on an ongoing basis.

"This is really about teaching and learning," Windber Superintendent Rick Huffman said. "It's about how to become more effective and engage students on their level and make learning the best that it can be for everyone."