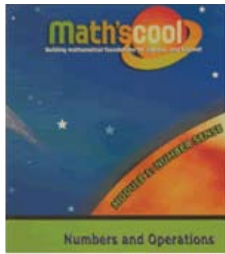


WHAT'S new



BestQuest has released a prequel to its Algebra'scool DVD program titled **Math'scool**. The interactive DVD is designed to provide pre-algebra instruction using graphics, illustrations, diagrams, models, and real-world problem-solving

situations. The storylines and content level are targeted at students in grades 5–8. The disc can be played on any DVD-equipped computer or a standard DVD player connected to a television. Lessons can be accessed sequentially or navigated to. Lessons on the DVD come with supporting print materials for both students and teachers, including assessments and blackline masters. Pricing is \$249 per module, with four modules currently available and additional titles expected through the year. Bulk purchasing prices are available.

MORE INFO: BestQuest Teaching Systems, 1.866.882.2665
<http://www.bestquest.com>

Blue Squirrel Inc. has produced **ClickBook 10.0 for Windows**, a print utility that according to the company can create printed books from virtually any program. The utility includes more than 150 layouts, including side-by-side folded booklet, doorknob hangers, postcards, tri-fold brochures, planner pages, and wallet books. The program can create and e-mail PDF versions of the formats for remote printing and allows for customized printers. The software is MS Vista-ready and will run on XP. A version of the software is also available for Macintosh. Cost is \$49.95. Educator and volume discounts are available.

MORE INFO: Blue Squirrel Inc., 1.800.403.0925
<http://www.bluesquirrel.com>

Classworks, a computer-based instruction system for K–12 students in language arts, reading, and mathematics, is now available in customized state editions for Ohio and revised for Indiana and Pennsylvania. Designed by Curriculum Advantage to meet individual state standards, the program assesses student achievement and presents only the content from state requirements that the student has not mastered. According to the company, the network-based learning system is comprised of more than 5,000 hours of curriculum content connected to state and national standards. Pricing information is available from the company.

MORE INFO: Curriculum Advantage, 1.888.841.4790
<http://www.classworks.com>



Tangent Inc. has begun shipping its **Rugged Mini PC**, a fanless, low-consumption computer for the education market.

According to the company, the fan-free design means that in addition to low noise, the device is also dust-free. The only moving part in the mostly solid-state computer is the hard disk. The system is available with either an Intel Celeron M or Pentium M processor, which combined with other power-saving features enables the system to use as little as six watts in standby mode and 37 watts at full use as compared to standard systems that typically draw 75–125 watts. According to the company, the low power requirements extend battery life significantly. The Rugged Mini is available for \$1,095 for the base configuration.

MORE INFO: Tangent Inc., <http://www.tangent.com>

Whyville.net, an educational virtual world for students ages 8–15, has formed a partnership



with telescope maker Celestron to provide a virtual planetarium experience in the Whyville setting. Using the virtual space's currency, students can purchase a virtual SkyScout. The device is an online replica of the real-world GPS-enabled handheld sold by Celestron. The physical SkyScout can identify and locate more than 6,000 celestial objects; the virtual version is limited to an educational tour of the solar system's 12 core constellations. Whyville is a free site that is supported by hybrid advertising such as the partnership with Celestron.

MORE INFO: Whyville, <http://www.whyville.net>

Epson has created the **Accolade DUET Ultra Portable Projection Screen**

for use with any front projection device. The free-standing or wall-hung screen can be set to a variety of sizes, up to 80 inches diagonal. The screen is capable of being expanded both horizontally, as well as the standard vertical to accommodate both wide-screen and standard projection formats. The screen is priced at \$249.

MORE INFO: Epson America, <http://www.epson.com>



Updated by Board Certified neurologist Dr. R.L. Kaplan, the Smartkit Web site provides expert commentary on the latest brain enhancement research, as well as brain teasers, brain art, and product reviews. **The Smartkit: Student Guidebook**, an ebook written by Kaplan, provides learning strategies and practical tips for improving memory and brain functions. Students learn how to improve their test scores by reviewing newly learned materials hours rather than weeks after exposure, that eating the right foods can stimulate the brain, how taking a short nap can reduce mental fatigue, and the way aerobic exercise boosts concentration and focus.

MORE INFO: Smartkit, 1.952.400.0349, <http://www.smart-kit.com>



The American Architectural Foundation (AAF), KnowledgeWorks Foundation, and Target have partnered to produce a 17-minute video and resource guide, **“Schools Designed for Learning: The Denver School of Science and Technology.”** The short feature offers tips for educators, architects, and community leaders in the elements of modern school design. The subject school,

a public charter high school in the Stapleton neighborhood of Denver, was built to accommodate a 1-to-1 laptop program and is fully wireless. The entire video, or a 4-minute version, can be viewed at no charge on the AAF Web site. A DVD version with the printed Resource Guide is \$20.

MORE INFO: American Architectural Foundation, <http://www.archfoundation.org>, KnowledgeWorks Foundation, <http://www.kwfdn.org>, Target, <http://www.target.com>

FrontRow has introduced its **ToGo** all-in-one sound system for classrooms. Designed to enhance student attention, comprehension, behavior, and test scores, the portable system combines an FM receiver, speaker column, and battery in one unit that can be used both indoors and outdoors. The system incorporates the OptiVoice standard, a single switch equivalent to a 12-band equalizer that projects the teacher’s voice through a wireless microphone. According to the company, the sound quality of OptiVoice minimizes distortion, allowing teachers to communicate clearly using normal voice levels. The system includes a wireless microphone, a receiver/speaker unit and charger, and a pass-around microphone for student participation. A carrying bag is also available. Cost is \$899.

MORE INFO: FrontRow, 1.800.227.0735, <http://www.gofrontrow.com>



Students at San Jose State University are taking their classroom computer with them using **MojoPac**, a software platform from RingCube Technologies that enables users to access programs, data, and settings from any USB storage device. Students can copy their academic and personal information, games, music, and applications such as Microsoft Office, iTunes, and Photoshop to portable storage devices including iPods, USB flash, personal drives, and cell phones. According to the company, when connected to a host computer, MojoPac runs side by side with the host to provide a layer of insulation against viruses, and when the device is unplugged, all browsing history, files, and personal settings are removed along with it.

MORE INFO: RingCube Technologies, Inc., 1.925.890.6889 <http://www.mojozac.com>

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