

For Immediate Release

For more information:

Katie Schumm, TRECA Digital Academy (TDA)
740-389-4798, ext. 296; Katie@treca.org

[Valerie Wigton](#), Badertscher Communications
740-383-2633

TDA 'IN TUNE' WITH STUDENTS' EDUCATION, VIA IPOD

MARION, Ohio (8-23-2005) — TRECA Digital Academy (TDA) is not only revolutionizing the way kids go to school, but the way they learn.

TDA, the state's only non-profit K-12 online school, will provide an iPod for each of its 3,000 students and teachers beginning Fall 2005. TDA educators are working diligently to integrate iPod into its state-certified curriculum to augment its technology-based, individualized approach to learning.

"We are a visionary school, offering students the opportunity to learn in an online environment, utilizing the most modern resources and technology," explained Josie Drushal, TDA director. "We consider ourselves 'the school for a new generation.' The iPod is certainly one of the tools of this new generation."

Examples of how TDA teachers are implementing iPod technology follow.

- **High School Geography Teacher Ryan Clark** says iPod will help him reach non-visual learners. "In one lesson, students create a trip around Asia in order to show what they have learned about the continent. I can take the PowerPoint presentations they create and turn them into a Podcast that the student can watch and listen to on their computers," Clark explained.
- **Second Grade Teacher Jane Baldwin** will use iPods for read-alouds of picture- and chapter books, important for students of any age. She's created iPod lessons to help students evaluate themselves on how well they can tell time, too. "They can choose the yellow brick road where they always know how to tell time, or the paved highway where they usually know how to tell time, or a gravel road or a dirt road, depending on their skills. It's important for students to assess their own progress so they can see their strengths and weaknesses. It also helps me, as a teacher, to check their understanding."
- **Seventh Grade Language Arts Teacher Sheri McNamara** says her students will now be able to take supplemental audio materials with them to listen to at their convenience. "I can literally be in their ear 24/7." McNamara's initial plans for iPod use are to model reading strategies for students, to aid in learning about speeches, and to provide additional vocabulary.
- **High School Biology Teacher Diana Dickson** will use iPod to organize frequently asked questions into Podcasts. "We cover some very challenging material," she noted. "These Podcasts will provide detailed explanations of complicated subjects, such as diffusion, photosynthesis and cell division." She has also created a narrative that explains diffusion in terms of everyday activities. "It's often difficult for a student to understand something on a molecular level. Listening to an oral explanation in easy-to-understand terms should help students grasp the concept more quickly."

"Interest in iPod as an education platform is off the charts," said John Couch, Apple's vice president of Education. "Apple is thrilled that TRECA Digital Academy is finding new ways to enhance teaching and learning with iPod."

Students will receive iPods to use throughout their education at TDA. Upon graduation from the school, the iPods will be theirs to keep.