

## Kids, Technology, and the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

### *How does computer-based learning help my child?*

During recent years technology has changed the face of learning styles. As our children approach adulthood, the employee-centered workplace of predefined jobs and career paths has given way to a worker-designed environment where individuals pursue their own assignments and must effortlessly combine technical skills with an intellectual toolbox enriched with experiences, roles, team building, and knowledge.

The cost efficacy and cost effectiveness of technology driven courses are shown in the return of higher achievement among students enrolled in computer based and project based learning classes. Studies show higher test scores on standardized achievement tests for students ages pre-k thru high-school. Greatest growth factors were evident in students in grades 3-8 in core curriculum across subject areas and in particular Math and Science skills tests. Technology courses that are project based are centered on the learner experience enhances a student's reasoning and problem-solving abilities.

Inquiry-based learning is a way to "engage children in exploring, thinking, reading, writing, researching, inventing, problem solving, and experiencing the world." Media for construction (robotics and computer modeling) and media for expression (video, music composition, and animation software) are two focuses in which to immerse a student in an environment to reach this goal.

Computer technology encourages cooperative learning, collaboration, problem solving, and student inquiries. Students engaged in technology-rich environments have shown measured increase in improved attitudes toward learning and increased self-esteem. They also show positive gains in achievement on researcher constructed tests, standardized tests, and national tests.

Students show better behavior, lower school absentee rates, lower drop-out rates, earn more college scholarships, and attend college in greater numbers than do students not involved in computer-based learning. Courses at the Arts & Technology Institute will not only teach your child skills that they can carry with them through adulthood but encourage them to be lifelong learners as well.