

## **Shutterfly**

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Bellair Elementary School Case Study  
May 7, 2015

### **Arizona Elementary School Publishes Student Work with Shutterfly Photo Story for Classrooms**

*Bellair Elementary School highlights student strengths by creating nonfiction books through interactive iPad app*

Located in the vast Deer Valley Unified School District, the fifth largest in Arizona with 35,000 students and 38 schools, Bellair Elementary School hosts 500 students and a lot of big ideas.

One of those ideas came from Lynn Castiglione who has 24 years experience at Bellair Elementary, teaching kindergarten to second grade, and now the gifted education students at the school. Never passing up new technology, Castiglione jumped at the opportunity to pilot Shutterfly Photo Story for Classrooms.

“I am always looking for ways to publish the students’ work,” said Castiglione. “I do whatever I can to get their work into their hands so they can share it outside the classroom. Photo Story for Classrooms was a perfect fit.”

#### **Understanding Nonfiction**

As her district moved toward the Common Core State Standards, Castiglione required her students to select nonfiction books when they visited the library. Because understanding nonfiction books is a requirement under Common Core, Castiglione took this assignment one step further by asking her students to create their own fact book using the Shutterfly Photo Story iPad app.

Easy to handle in the early stages of implementing, the app fit right in with the classroom that had a wide range of grade levels.

“The most important feature for the students was the ability to add their own drawing,” said Castiglione. “It really personalized the book for them. They even looked at pictures on the Internet and choose to draw them instead of just copying and pasting the image.”

#### **The Joys of Learning**

Castiglione also saw how Shutterfly Photo Story positively affected learning styles, especially for one student who was eager to learn but often forgot to bring school supplies, such as a pencil or notebook, to class. Castiglione saw an immediate change as soon as the classroom went digital. Having an iPad at home and one at school allowed the student to engage in the learning process in a way that worked best for her.

“Within the student’s Shutterfly book I was able to see all the joy of learning that I didn’t see before,” said Castiglione. “She had pages in her book that read, ‘these are my classmates

and I love this reading class,' when some days I wondered if she liked coming at all. Once we went to digital, her strengths emerged."

### **Results Driven**

With Photo Story for Classrooms, content can be privately shared with educators, administrators and parents through the website, something that appealed to Bellair Elementary principal, Jackie Dettorre.

"With each iPad linked to the Shutterfly website, students and teachers can send status updates to their parents and me," said Dettorre. "It's not just about publishing the books, but also about the progress the student is making in reading and writing."

At the end of the school year, the Bellair Elementary gifted education students held an event to unveil their nonfiction books to their parents. After being given his Photo Story book, one student exclaimed, "I knew we were getting a book, but I didn't think it would be a real book!"