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### **Annex Teachers Honored for ‘Flipped Classroom’ Efforts**

LIVERPOOL – Last school year, Liverpool High School Annex teacher-librarian Norm Bagley, English teacher Jane Neer and social studies teacher Maureen Tricase wanted to find a new way to address an all-to-familiar dilemma – how do you challenge students who understand a given topic while also providing the rest of your students with more support?

In an effort to address the issue, the three educators explored a new method of teaching called “The Flipped Classroom.” The concept shifts classroom lessons toward more student-directed, student-centered and collaborative learning efforts with less direct instruction. By changing the classroom environment in this way, teachers could then provide students with some of their more procedural instruction (topics they would normally demonstrate during class time) in a different way, which in turn allows them to spend more one-on-one time with students to focus on the application of skills and knowledge.

Gale, a leading publisher of research and reference resources for libraries, schools and businesses, and *Library Media Connection Magazine* recently honored Bagley, Neer and Tricase’s efforts with an honorable mention designation as part of the 2013 TEAMS Award contest, which recognizes the critical collaboration between teachers and media specialists in promoting learning and increasing student achievement.

“It’s really nice to have recognition for our efforts,” Bagley said, noting that collaboration was a big part of their success.

Bagley, Neer and Tricase explored “The Flipped Classroom” method last year when Tricase’s students began to work on their Global History 9 research papers.

Bagley created a page on the LHS Annex Library Web site to guide students through the entire research paper process. He also posted a number of video tutorials to show students how to use different online tools – such as NoodleTools and Google’s Advanced Search – to help them conduct research, evaluate sources and create an outline of their papers. Students were asked to watch the videos and complete short exercises as part of their assigned homework. Neer and Tricase would then provide a quick recap regarding each topic during class, adding some new information to help students get to work. After the recap, Neer and Tricase would make their way around the classroom to work directly with students on their papers.

Tricase said their efforts were so successful that she decided to post videos for all of her social studies lessons on her teacher Web site.

“It worked out to be such a great tool,” she said.

“We’re always open to trying new things,” Neer added.

All three said that the concept of “The Flipped Classroom” has sparked the interest of fellow educators. LHS Annex social studies teacher Mark Polky and English teacher Jill LeClair are the second set of teachers working with Bagley to apply “The Flipped Classroom” method to the global studies research paper process, while Neer was asked to teach the method to students studying education at Le Moyne College.

**PHOTO: anxflipaward.jpg**

Liverpool High School Annex English teacher Jane Neer, left, teacher-librarian Norm Bagley and social studies teacher Maureen Tricase recently were honored by Gale, a leading publisher of research and reference resources for libraries, schools and businesses, and *Library Media Connection Magazine* with an honorable mention designation as part of the 2013 TEAMS Award contest, which recognizes teachers and media specialists that improve student achievement. Last year, the three educators explored a new method of teaching called “The Flipped Classroom.”

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