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NEWS

Students go high-tech for papers O-A sixth-graders plug Roman history research into podcasts

By [Monique Lewis](#)
 Press & Sun-Bulletin

OWEGO -- Allie McGuane couldn't get her voice to sound right.

Allie, 11, kept repeating lines from her research paper to record on a podcast at Owego-Apalachin Middle School.

A podcast is a collection of files, usually audio and video, on a unique Web feed address. People can subscribe to the feed by submitting the feed address to an aggregator such as iTunes.

Allie said she wrote five drafts about a Roman emperor's cruel son who becomes his father's successor. The sixth-grade class wrote fictional stories based on their research about Roman history and culture, teacher Pam Horton said Wednesday. Some of the students have been walking around listening to their podcasts on their MP3 players, she said.

The students learned that recording the audio wasn't as easy as pressing play. Sam Frauenhofer, 12, said the podcast was somewhat difficult because he had to make sure the microphone was the right distance from his mouth.

Kalila Pyfrom, 12, said she's still trying to master the emotion in her podcast.

"Don't get overdone with it, because it was really hard," Sam told Kalila. "Every time I tried to put expression in it, I would mess up on what I would say."

A couple of students wanted as little background noise as possible and had the entire computer lab cleared to be left alone, said Lori Ward, special education teacher.

The students created their podcasts by downloading free Internet software called Audacity, Technology Director Robert Farrell said. Similar software programs such as Garageband on Macintosh could cost up to \$2,000 each, he said.

"The great thing is kids are going home and downloading it themselves," he said.

Horton is waiting for approval to place the podcasts on iTunes so students can download the files onto their iPods.



MONIQUE LEWIS / Press & Sun-Bulletin

Mary Laskaris, 12, records her research paper about Roman culture and history onto an audio file. Owego- Apalachin Middle School students are learning how to record and edit podcasts.

File downloads:

🔊 [Allie McGuane's podcast](#)

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Garageband is a very cool program, but it doesn't cost \$2000...it's come free on our last two Macintosh computers.

Posted by: **pcw330** on Sun Jun 17, 2007 2:11 pm

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