

Good Morning G. T. Norman Elementary!

by David J. Griffin, Director of Technology

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Each Friday morning at G. T. Norman Elementary in Reed City, morning announcements read over the loudspeaker are history. A group of students televise their announcement show live to the entire school each Friday. Students as young as 10-years-old are writing, reporting and producing the news.

Many school districts like Reed City have started incorporating a "Morning Announcement" or "Morning News Show" as part of a school media program. The experience gained by students is a wonderful opportunity to learn how to plan, write, produce, and perform in television productions.

We have fifth grade students who are great with the equipment and have learned how to operate a video camera and sound equipment. They know how to set everything up and how to run everything.

The excitement of giving young students opportunities for public speaking and production experience being provided through the morning announcement program is amazing. Students look forward to broadcasting over the school's closed circuit TV system each Friday when the morning show is delivered to nearly 600 children.

News anchors are selected from different classrooms each week with "production crew" responsibilities being assigned to different children on a rotating basis. Students typically report on current events, school announcements, and include a fun joke-of-the-day. Future plans to be included in the news show are guest announcers, student/class performances, art displays, vocal music, and presentation of student awards. Other ideas have included to interview teachers or parents to highlight careers.

It is hoped that by gaining valuable video production experience at an early age, our students will continue to expand their opportunities. Someday they may even be able to produce a local cable television show for our community!