TECHNOLOGY in Practice
Applications and Innovations

Keys to Success

Understand Components and Features
One key to a successful year with *Technology in Practice: Applications and Innovations* is understanding the features and components of the modules and trying to teach in accordance with them. For example, because the curriculum is structured around an instructional model, it does not work to pick and choose activities randomly from the book. It is important for students' conceptual development and skill building that the lessons be taught following the instructional model. It is important that you teach the chapters within a module and the activities within those chapters in sequence.

Move at Your Own Pace
Move through the modules somewhat at your own pace. We do not make recommendations for how long each activity should take. The time will vary from class to class and teacher to teacher. The activities and chapters each vary in length, and we expect you to know yourself and your students better than we do. Certain activities, such as Engage activities, are meant to be short and should take less than one class period. If that happens, move on to the next activity and begin it. It is not necessary to begin activities only at the beginning of a class period.

Include Collaborative Learning
To be successful as you teach this program, it is also important that you include the collaborative learning component. The program has a balance of small-group, individual, and whole-class activities. These strategies are used intentionally to encourage the participation of students who traditionally have not been successful in science-oriented classes.

Use Technology Notebooks for Students
The students' use of a technology notebook each day is a small but important key to success. This daily routine helps students focus on the task at hand and articulate what they understand and do not understand. Specific instructions for what to write in the technology notebooks are included throughout the student activities. These opportunities include making predictions, answering questions, recording observations, drawing sketches, and writing explanations. These notebooks are much more than simply a place to take notes from a lecture. You may find there are additional pieces of information that you would like for students to include in their technology notebooks.

Keep Parents Informed

Chances are this program will not remind parents of their own science classes or technology classes, if they had them. Their unfamiliarity can work to your benefit because studies show that most people (even many science teachers) do not have positive memories of their science classes. Consider the following strategies as a means for enlisting and encouraging parental support:

- Offer a parent-awareness night.
- Send a letter home at the beginning of each module that provides an overview of upcoming work.
- Require that students show their technology notebooks to their parents.
- Invite parents to participate in the activities.
- Ask parents to help collect and plan for materials you need.