LANSCHOOL

Indiana teachers and students embrace remote learning with LanSchool

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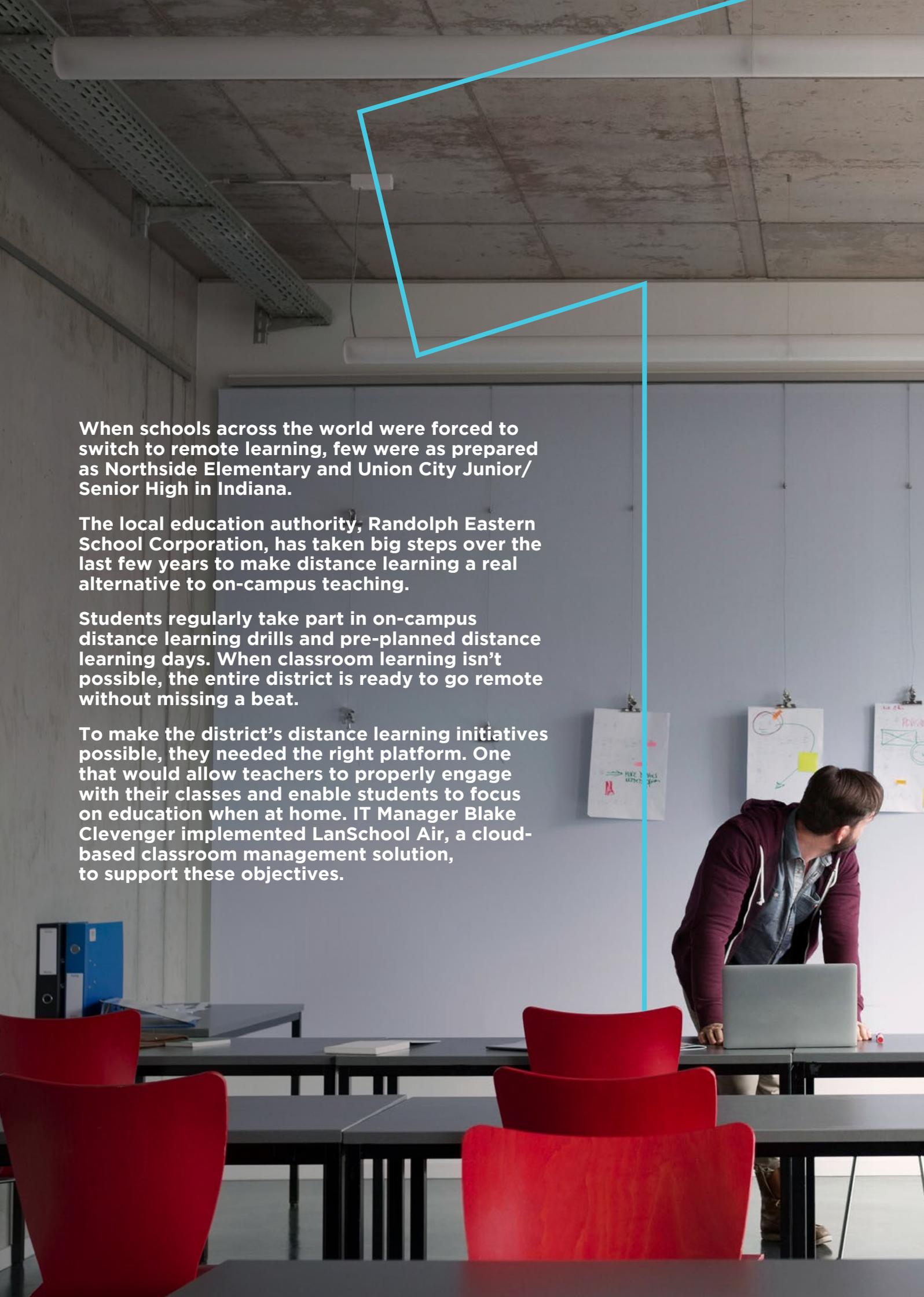
When schools across the world were forced to switch to remote learning, few were as prepared as Northside Elementary and Union City Junior/Senior High in Indiana.

The local education authority, Randolph Eastern School Corporation, has taken big steps over the last few years to make distance learning a real alternative to on-campus teaching.

Students regularly take part in on-campus distance learning drills and pre-planned distance learning days. When classroom learning isn't possible, the entire district is ready to go remote without missing a beat.

To make the district's distance learning initiatives possible, they needed the right platform. One that would allow teachers to properly engage with their classes and enable students to focus on education when at home. IT Manager Blake Clevenger implemented LanSchool Air, a cloud-based classroom management solution, to support these objectives.

Cloud-based classroom management software a step up from email

Prior to using LanSchool, the district relied on email to help students and teachers communicate during eLearning days. But Blake found that many older students didn't check their emails regularly enough for this to be effective. And some younger students found email etiquette hard to master.

Also, teachers couldn't see what students were working on in real time, so it was difficult to confirm whether students were participating. When technical challenges did arise (e.g. students not being able to find the right web page), teachers had no way of troubleshooting other than to ask the student to describe what was happening on their screen. This resulted in a loss of valuable teaching time.

Blake launched LanSchool Air with a small group of teachers and was immediately impressed by how easy it was to learn and use.

> "
> ## It's a really straightforward piece of software.
>
> Blake Clevenger, IT Manager,
> Randolph Eastern School Corporation

He started a pilot with the most tech-savvy teachers who immediately wanted to use it.

One of those members of staff was science teacher Karli Bransteter. "At first I was worried it would be complicated. But the fact that it synced with Google Classroom made it a million times easier," she said. "It took me about 10 minutes to learn it. I instantly figured it out."

Karli was away at an education conference when the pilot program began, giving her a unique perspective on the software's capabilities. "I was able to see if my kids were working while I was away. It was super handy," she said.

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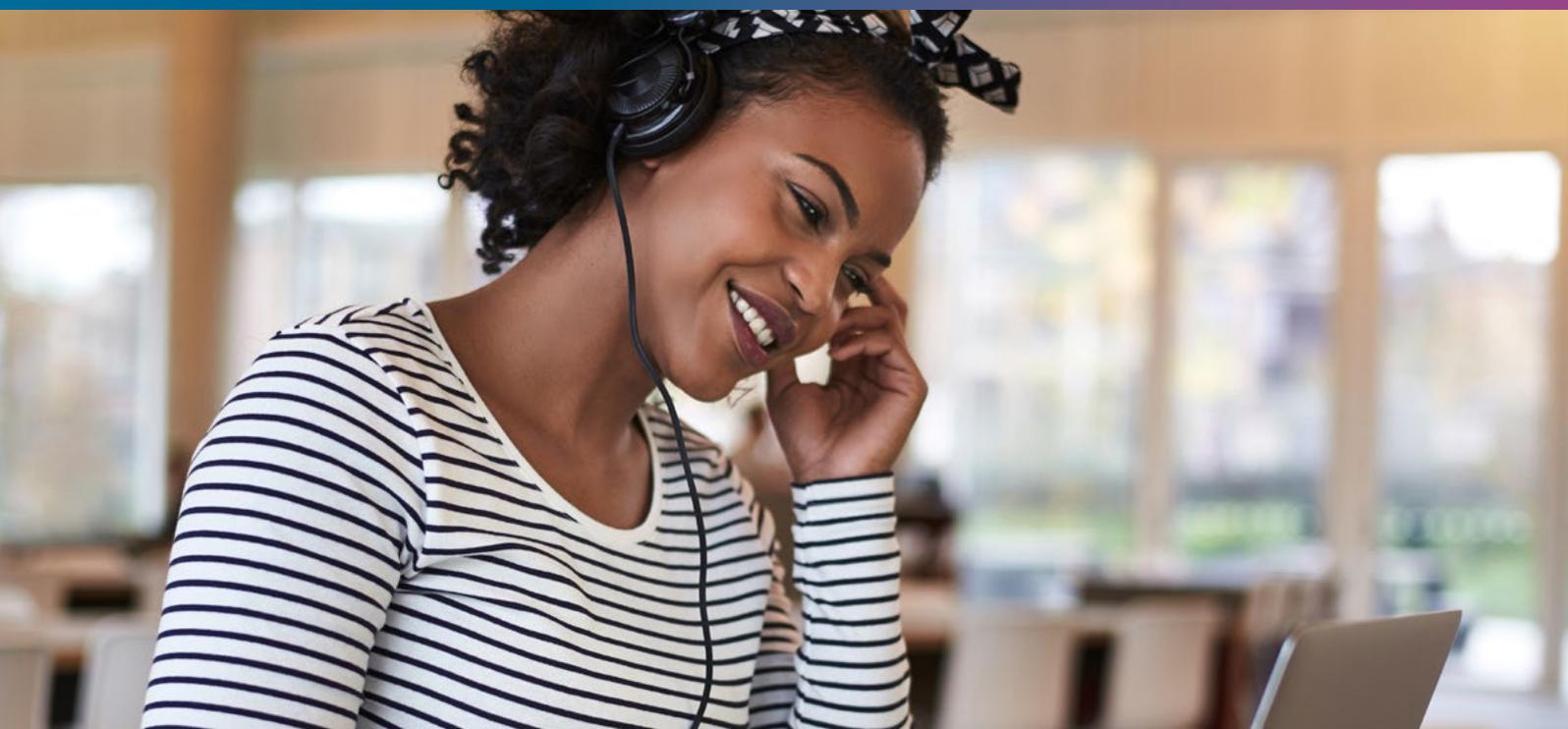
Ever since we got on LanSchool Air, I was big on telling other teachers about it and how awesome it is. Teaching remotely, it's important to be able to see in real time if your kid is having an issue, instead of them having to explain it over email or text.

Karli Bransteter, Science Teacher,
Union City Jr. High School
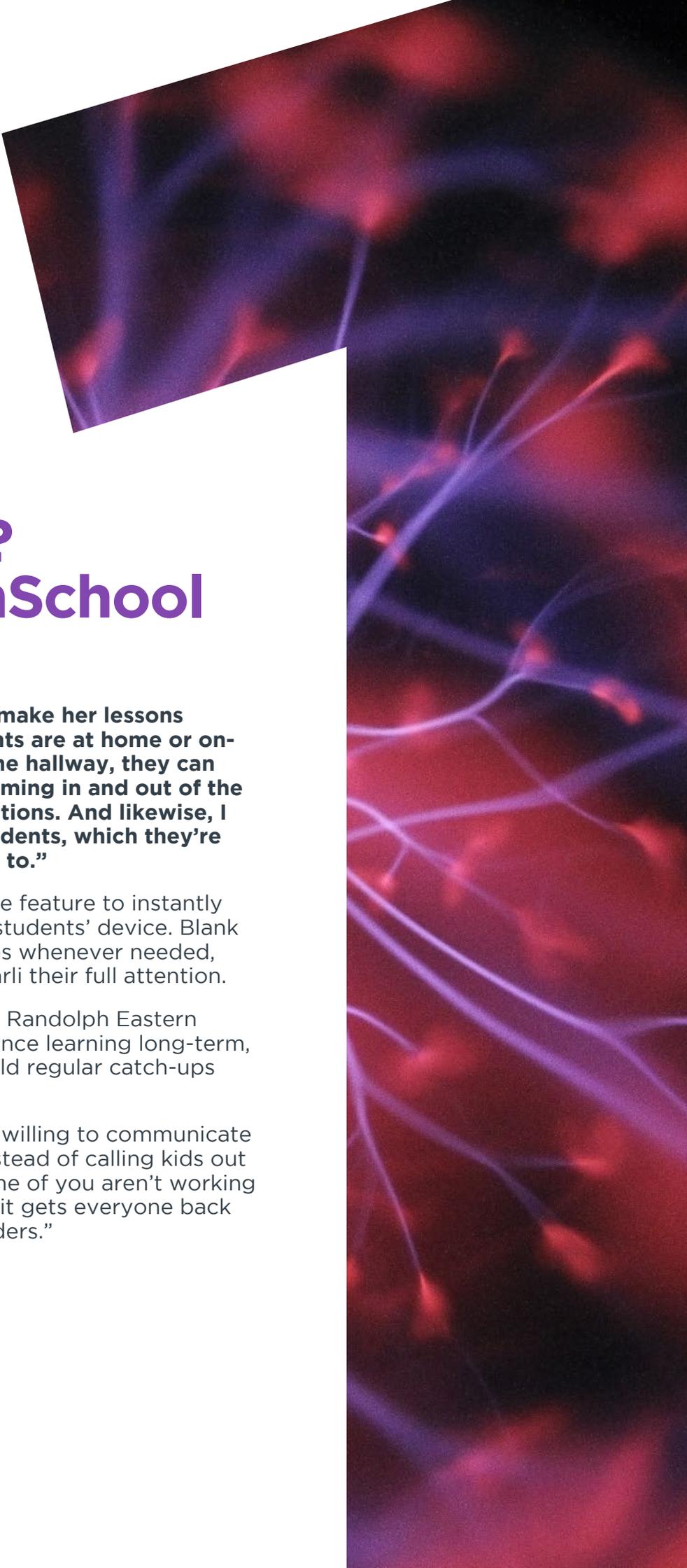
Distractions during class? Not with LanSchool

Now Karli uses LanSchool Air to make her lessons more productive, whether students are at home or on-campus. "If kids are working in the hallway, they can send me a question instead of coming in and out of the classroom, which reduces distractions. And likewise, I can send discreet requests to students, which they're more likely to respond positively to."

Karli can also use the Push website feature to instantly open the same website on every students' device. Blank screen can then lock those devices whenever needed, and ensure students are giving Karli their full attention.

When the pandemic dictated that Randolph Eastern Schools needed to switch to distance learning long-term, Karli used Google Hangouts to hold regular catch-ups with her whole class.

"It's helpful, as students are more willing to communicate that way," she explained. "And instead of calling kids out by themselves, I can just say, 'Some of you aren't working the way you're supposed to,' and it gets everyone back on track. Plus, it's good for reminders."

LanSchool teaches students digital skills and the value of education

Perhaps most importantly, LanSchool has given Karli a way to stay connected with students who may otherwise have become disengaged. She organised weekly meetings to give students a space to interact with her and each other. Karli was initially sceptical that anyone would attend. But to her surprise, students not only attended but were enthusiastic to reconnect with her and their peers.

"Kids who weren't fond of school before have been reaching out and saying how much they miss it," she said. "Kids and parents seem to have found a new appreciation for school and what teachers do. I think parents knew to some extent, but a lot of kids have taken for granted what a privilege school is."

When on-campus teaching does resume, Karli expects digital devices will remain a big part of her lessons. "I think that's a good thing," she said. "Because it's changing kids' digital literacy and teaching them important collaboration and communication skills."

After the successful pilot, the easy scalability of the platform meant Blake could roll it out to individual teachers as soon as they requested it. Now, most of the district's teachers use LanSchool Air.

"I thought the rollout was really simple. If there were any pain points, I don't remember them."

Blake Clevenger, IT Manager, Randolph Eastern School Corporation

About LanSchool

As a pioneer and innovator of classroom management software, LanSchool helps teachers connect

with students to create more meaningful online experiences, both in the classroom and remotely.

Backed by Lenovo and building on 30 years as an edtech leader, LanSchool helps guide learning,

increase collaboration and maximize teaching time. We've also partnered with best-in-class safety

solutions to protect every student, teacher and staff member from cyberattacks.

Randolph Eastern Schools use LanSchool Air on 1:1 Lenovo Chromebook devices. For more information on device bundle discount, to book your free 30 day trial or a 1:1 demo, visit www.lanschool.com.