Students at Ravine Middle School use technology to integrate their English, Social Studies, and Art classes. A quarter long project revolves around Ancient Greek times begins with students during their studies during English and Social Studies classes. Going through a web quest created by their teacher, Carey Smith, students study different roles people played in society, architecture of the time, timelines of events, symbols, and virtual tours of Ancient Greece. Technology provides the key component of motivating the students to work on the cross-curricular project. After spending time with their web quests, students continue on with their studies in the classroom via classroom computers and books. However, they continue to use technology towards the same project.

While the Social Studies class were doing their Web Quest, English students were reading a book about Ancient Greece. This book told about the lives and times of people during that time period. As they finished up their book, they were also finishing their Web Quest that gave them a variety of information they could reflect upon. They were required to create 15 slide PowerPoint Presentation displaying information about a certain person from the Ancient Times. These projects were created by all students. At the end of their assignment in the computer lab, students presented their presentations to their classmates and for peer review. A 100% completion rate shows of the interest created by starting with the web quest and book reading. However, there was a third integration not talked about yet. Art also came into play.

In Art, students researched a variety of information using the Internet. They researched clothing, jewelry, architecture, and a variety of other things from Ancient Greek times. They were then required to create a design on a 12” x 12” square cloth. Each class would create approximately 25 squares. These cloth squares were then going to be made into a quilt. Students were able to design their square anyway they chose, as long as it was acceptable by the group. Designs varied from symbols to Escher-like drawings of the various structures of Greece. Students once again were actively involved in the creating of their squares. Completion was again at 100%, with students taking great pride in their square.

When all projects were complete, an Ancient Greece day was held. The classes were all able to get together to see the completed quilt, view Power Points and tell their favorite things about the Ancient Greece unit. Feedback was very positive, with students wanting to continue the cross-curricular projects. Prior to these students starting their cross-curricular units, discipline, attendance and grades were down. By the end, discipline had ceased to be an issue because students want to miss any of their three Ancient Greece classes. A reminder was given to all students that to be able to continue with the project, they were required proper behavior in all classes, making the workload much easier for the other teachers in the building. Attendance also soared. Missing a day or two threw students off. They needed to be there everyday to complete the project to its fullest extent, and 95% of the students were present all days. This compares to an 88% building average. Finally, student’s grades increased, also. By attending school everyday, not getting in trouble, and staying in class, students actually became more interested in their studies. Keeping the students on task made for a much more positive learning environment. Because of this, the environment of building also changed. More students
were interested in what was happening in Mrs. Smith’s cluster and why they weren’t allowed to do such a project. It also challenged teachers to not only work together, but to also integrate technology across the curriculum. Previously, less than half the teachers in the building were utilizing technology. Because of this project, the use of projectors, digital cameras, and computers skyrocketed. Also, students began to apply their knowledge using technology, breaking away from the traditional pen and paper test.