At Glen Meadow Middle School of Vernon Township School District, the school library has launched a morning announcements television show without the use of television sets. Like in many school districts, funding for television sets in every middle school classroom and a central broadcasting switchboard was not available. However, as a former technology consultant to Obama America and other nameworthy organizations, I searched for an Internet technology that might allow us to use existing classroom computer systems with little additional investment.

We discovered Fuze Meeting, a hybrid of desktop sharing and video conferencing technologies that allowed us, for little more than a subscription fee of $650 / year to stream our morning announcements shows through classroom computers and projectors.

Since the show’s inception, students have used this low-cost technology to create a school morning news show that rivals even the most expensive setups around. Students have incorporated Adobe After Effects digital film editing to create light shows and layered digital video. They have used green screen technology to create movie reviews and weather reports with live movies playing in the background of student broadcasters. The show has inspired students to engage themselves in learning new cutting-edge technologies, because they can quickly see the results in exciting popular broadcasts throughout the school.

We believe that this technology could make truly cutting-edge 21st Century broadcasting education no longer cost-prohibitive for so many K-12 schools throughout the country. Instead, this technique uses equipment that is readily available in most schools more efficiently and effectively than the traditional method with television sets in each classroom and expensive (and perhaps antiquated) television production equipment.