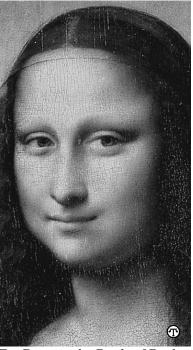# High-Tech Teaching Tools: Your Children Could Be Using This Technology To Improve Their Grades

(NAPSA)—Remember when a calculator was considered a high-tech novelty? Remember when students wrote papers on manual typewriters instead of computers? It is hard to believe that the important notes once surreptitiously passed on slips of paper (and confiscated by teachers) are now stealthily transmitted as instant messages over the Internet.

Today, schools are finding more and more innovative ways to deploy technology as a classroom aid—and they are applying it to more subjects than the math and science disciplines. Below is a sampling of tech-savvy applications being used this school year to enhance the educational experience.

• **Art and Technology**—How many fifth graders do you know who appreciate European art? New tools from Lexmark International, Inc. are helping to introduce Europe's finest collections to the American classroom. Based on the success of a pilot program, Lexmark plans to donate its award-winning inkjet printers to hundreds of schools this year, along with educational CD-ROMs featuring artistic masterpieces from Europe's leading museums. Using curricula developed "by-teachers-for-teachers," students will learn to embrace other cultures by studying art, history, language and humanities. For more information on art as an educational asset, visit www.print-art.com.

• **Virtual Field Trips**—Besides aiding students with their homework or research projects, the Internet helps teachers develop exciting, interactive lessons that allow students to take field trips all over the world without leaving the classroom. Rather than flipping the pages of their history textbooks to learn about the American Revolution, students can go online and take an interactive journey to the Boston

Tea Party or the Battle of Bunker Hill. In addition, students learning about the U.S. government can take a virtual tour of the White House and students studying Spanish can "visit" Barcelona.

• **Remote Classrooms**—Today, students who are unable to attend school can still participate in class. Video conferencing has allowed non-traditional students to learn and contribute from a remote location. Instant messaging and Internet chat rooms allow offsite students to participate in classroom discussions and after-school activities, while e-mail allows students to submit their homework no matter where they're located.

• **Digital Yearbooks**—Graduates are starting to capture yearbook memories electronically. Digital photography allows students to create Web-based yearbooks that are not only viewed electronically, but can be printed individually to create personalized yearbooks.