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PDR

MARIAN BERNARD
DIRECTOR OF CURRICULUM, INSTRUCTION
& PROFESSIONAL LEARNING

August 15, 2008

Dear Mr. Kirchner,

This letter attests that the light covers we finally were able to mount in our Talent Visual Art classroom have remarkably made it possible to sit at our computers without experiencing the visual fatigue of before from our intense fluorescent lighting. These have additionally improved the environment in a barely perceptible but yet functionally apparent manner. I have noticed an increase in attention spans and student ability/willingness to flex with instructional demands. I require students to concentrate visually for lengths of time and they are better able to do so. In the area of visual art, light and abilities of visual perception, of course, become paramount. Could we learn and teach without the help of your light covers? Indeed, yes. However, good lighting stands as an invitation, felt intimately by each student, to settle into their seeing and into their tasks of visual discernment. It is when strain is lifted invisibly that participants unquestioningly allow themselves to be led more deeply into learning challenges and we feel the impact exponentially in visual art. Thank you so much for this invention!

I feel I should make a further, and also often overlooked, point. 1. We live in a visual world, 2. we rely heavily upon our vision yet 3. we are visually manipulated all the time. We do not know how that which is visual affects us and it is time to pay more attention to this matter, in my view. Much, in other words, is visually demanded of us. Eye fatigue or vision loss carries a potentially high price and your product is a 'no-brainer' for those who actually do any 'thinking' about this matter. Whether addressing promotion of your visually helpful, learning-enhancing light covers or attempting to increase awareness in individuals of how visual communication functions (as creator and receiver), a base reality affects us all. Seeing better and reducing visual strain is primary to more effective function, in any domain.

I, myself, noticed immediate relief to eyestrain I'd accustomed myself to. My sleep even improved in a clearly connected way, further enhancing my health. [The CHEK institute, of Vista, CA, among other health organizations and medical experts, educates and encourages more conscious decision-making regarding light exposure, particularly with respect to circadian rhythms, sleep and exercise. You can read more on their website and I would recommend any of the many books written by Sherry Rogers MD, an expert in environmental medicine.]

Again, we cannot thank you enough. This letter to you is long overdue and its belatedness bears no reflection on the nature of your most generous and useful gift to the students of our Talent Visual Art Program in Jefferson Parish, here in the New Orleans area. Post Katrina we really needed all the help that we could get! Thank you ever so much for your kindness and for your help in both our curricular and physiological processes. As the photos I sent demonstrate, life in our little cubbyhole has become much enhanced by your product and there isn't a day in which we do not profit from their use.

Gratefully yours,

Inge Maumus, NBC
Nationally Board Certified Teacher (NBPTS)
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Gifted and Talented Program