

**BEST IN  
TECH**  
2011

**SPECIAL NEEDS TECHNOLOGY**



**Fixing NYC's  
Alternative  
Schools.** P. 18



**School-  
Run Health  
Clinics.** P. 41



**Tech for  
Struggling  
Readers.** P. 51

# SCHOLASTIC ADMINISTRATOR



**More with less.**



SCHOLASTICADMINISTRATOR.COM - SUMMER 2011

section of the page they want to have read to them—then press Play.

**WHAT'S AHEAD:** We will continue to expand our use of Kurzweil 3000. We want to support learning for students who aren't fluent in reading. Our next implementation will be in other schools that have a large number of struggling students.

summer institute. In addition, there need to be district champions who support all stakeholders and review teachers, sites, and district data.

**WHAT'S AHEAD:** Next year, we will add three more schools. We are thinking of adding System 44 and Read 180 licenses in our adult school to support parents who are English learners.



## VizZle

[monarchteachtech.com](http://monarchteachtech.com)



**REVIEWER:** Jane Cordero, coordinator of autism services, School District of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

**PROGRAM WE CHOSE:**

VizZle visual learning solutions

**HOW SCHOOLS USE IT:** VizZle is used for students with autism spectrum disorders. The Web-based program lets teachers work on material at school or at home. They can search keywords and get hundreds of lessons, games, and material resources. Many teachers use it as a way to involve parents, assigning activities to be done at home on family computers.

**GOALS:** We wanted to save our teachers preparation time. Teachers spend an inordinate amount of time preparing materials to meet the visual needs of autism spectrum disorder students. Whether it is preparing a visual schedule, choice board, or picture motivator, it has to be done outside of the actual teaching time.

**RESPONSE:** Teachers say that it makes their life easier, and that the kids love it, too.

**LEARNING CURVE:** It takes a little work up front to get familiar with the site—but once accustomed, the sky is the limit. All I needed to do was identify the personnel who would be using the program, and the rest was done by the VizZle team. I continue to coordinate with VizZle advisors to provide continuing professional development.

**WHAT'S AHEAD:** I'd like to get more teachers using the program to its capacity. We'd like to create more lessons that relate directly to our district's curriculum.