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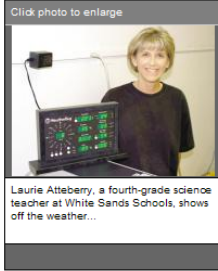


### Weather site teaches students

Alamogordo Daily News  
 By Tom Fuller, For the Daily News  
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Thanks to an effort by White Sands Schools to acquire weather sensing equipment to help teach students science and math, anyone can now go online and retrieve accurate, live weather conditions at White Sands Missile Range.

With the installation of weather sensors on the school roof last spring, WSMR Schools joined thousands of other sites across the country as an official WeatherBug site. According to Smart Computing Magazine Online, WeatherBug is a company that supplies weather information to television stations and computer users nationwide using data provided by measurement devices in more than 6,000 schools, museums and other neighborhood sites.



Click photo to enlarge  
 Laurie Atteberry, a fourth-grade science teacher at White Sands Schools, shows off the weather...

The WeatherBug sensors are mounted on a mast fixed to the roof structure and can track inside and outside temperatures, wind speed and direction, wind chill and 12 other weather variables in real time. Information is passed to a digital panel located in a storage room.

Paid for by a grant from Prices Dairy to help teachers in the classroom, the weather information is unique to White Sands Missile Range and available to the general public.

"We requested a WeatherBug because the weather on the east side of the mountains is so different from the weather back in Las Cruces,"

said Laurie Atteberry, fourth-grade science teacher. "We are tracking the weather because we are doing a weather unit in class right now. I'm taking what we get from the computer (weather sites) to compare and contrast with what we get from our WeatherBug at White Sands. Then we will graph it."

According to math teacher Viola Wilson, securing the grant was a team effort.

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"(The staff and faculty) had input to the writing of the grant that was submitted by (Larry) Davis, the former principal of the school, and we were awarded \$5,000 from the Give Me Five grant from Prices Dairy," Wilson said.

Wilson's class will also use the WeatherBug measurements for learning data analysis. "We will come in and take different sets of data for line plotting for math later on in the school year," she said.

Atteberry said the students are excited to learn about the weather through their WeatherBug site. The class has talked about low pressures, high pressures and weather fronts coming into the area. Next up they will be making their own weather instruments to take their own readings to compare with the WeatherBug data.

Computer users with access to the World Wide Web can access White Sands Schools' WeatherBug site by going to [www.weatherbug.com](http://www.weatherbug.com) and entering the local zip code, 88002, or city name, White Sands Missile Range, NM.

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