



Highland[®] Balance Gets Top Marks From Arizona Educator

**“After we used them
for about a year, we
found that they were
reliable and stood up
to student abuse”**

— Lisa Tozzi,
Chem. Board Chair at
Westwood High school

Five years ago, chemistry teacher Lisa Tozzi was on a mission. She needed to find precision balances for her chemistry classrooms, and not just any balance would do. Tozzi serves as chemistry department chair at Westwood High School in Mesa, Arizona, a suburb of Phoenix.

Finding a Solution

She wanted an affordable balance that came with a warranty and was easy to use. Most importantly, she needed a balance that was durable enough to withstand demanding student use. After careful research, she decided on Adam Equipment's Highland portable precision balances.

“We bought a few Highlands initially to see if they'd work out for us,” Tozzi said. After that, the school went ahead and purchased additional balances, bringing their total up to 18.

Sparking Their Interest

Students start using the Highland balances on the very first day in Tozzi's class, which consists primarily of juniors. Activities include examining the law of conservation of mass; density assessments; isotope lab experiments; stoichiometry; investigating molarity; and determining empirical formulas.

Schools often have limited storage space, and the design of the Highland allows the balances to be stacked conveniently and safely in storage. This was an important consideration for Tozzi, who had to think about where she was going to put 18 balances.

"That was just what we needed," Tozzi said. "They're easy to store, they're readily accessible, and they take up far less space than other balances."

The Highland offers plenty of user-friendly features that make it an excellent choice for classrooms. Simple for students to operate, the Highland contains color-coded keys that allow fast, easy identification of the most frequently used buttons.

Highland Makes the Grade

"I like how clearly marked the balances are," Tozzi said. "I can easily tell students how to tare the balance just by referring to the yellow button." Once they learn how to operate the Highland, students can quickly begin to perform the assigned experiments, she added.

For many of the students, this is their first experience with an electronic balance, since science and biology classes generally use triple-beam balances in their lessons. Students enjoy working with the Highlands, Tozzi said. On occasion, they've been known to expand their research a bit beyond the assigned tasks, She added.



"They love to use the balances to find the mass of other things like pencils or rings. They've even discovered the mass of their cell phones. Many of them ask why they didn't get to use these balances in their earlier science and biology classes."

— Lisa Tozzi, Chem. Board Chair at Westwood High school

Tozzi said she is very pleased with her Highland balances, and has recommended them to other department chairs in the district.

"They are well-made and Adam Equipment stands behind their products," she said.



The Highland Portable Precision Balance is stackable, for efficient storing and transporting between classrooms.