

# DENNIS MIDDLE SCHOOL TECHNOLOGY PLAN

## Integration

It is the intent of the staff of Dennis Middle School to continue to integrate technology, including use of the Internet, into the curriculum. Currently the professional staff makes use of technology for record keeping and data collection, communication with colleagues, students and parents, and as a tool in their daily instructional planning. Technology is also often used by students as a way to demonstrate their understanding of lesson concepts through such mediums as: student created PowerPoint presentations, student research, written reports and essays. Technology has been and will continue to be strongly embraced as a beneficial tool for the building.

Examples of use for record keeping and data collection currently include attendance and grades within the school system's student information system, and on student performance on measurement assessments such as Scantron, STAR Reading and STAR Math. The use of technology will also assist in the disaggregating and refinement of data collection. It is the intent that further utilization of technology in this area will include refinement of data collection to allow quicker and more targeted assessment of student growth or lack of, that will allow assistance to the student to be delivered in a more timely and relevant manner. The staff intends to use the data collected from attendance, test scores, and performance within the classroom to quickly identify patterns that are either detrimental or beneficial to students, and use this knowledge of these patterns to benefit more students.

Technology has been and will continue to be an excellent tool by which teachers can communicate with students, parents and other colleagues within or outside the building. Currently, staff members utilize email and voicemail to communicate electronically, but in the future, the community of Dennis Middle School, by which is meant all persons within the walls, will use technology to communicate. Soon, more students and teachers will maintain communication via email, projects and student work will be submitted electronically, parents will electronically check in on their child's attendance, behavior and schoolwork performance. Parents and teachers now have access to student's personal information from the data warehouse through PEP. The use of the school's long distance learning center will permit valuable, yet comfortable communication with colleagues outside the building walls.

The largest impact of technology has been and will continue to be within the daily instructional and learning blueprint of the school. The entire curriculum has shifted within the last several years to embrace technology and harvest its benefits for students. Every subject being taught must use technology in some sense. Even physical education students utilize technology to check facts on sports, physical fitness or to check the weather if it is wise to go outside to play softball. Many, many examples could be included to demonstrate just how pervasive technology is used in the learning environmental. Students:

- Use computers to compose and edit their writings in many subjects.
- Use the school's network to access and utilize Accelerated Reader, Accelerated Math and Cornerstone programs.
- Use computer programs to create PowerPoint presentations.
- Use the Internet to research for projects in all classes.
- Use computers to complete nearly all their work in Industrial Technology and Family Life and Consumer Skills Classes.

In the future, the use of technology as a major role in instruction and learning will probably increase the most. Using technology, students will take a greater role in their education.

## **Professional Development**

Teachers and staff members will be provided in-service via the following methods:

- Formal in-service workshops will be held to demonstrate new equipment or programs, which have been added to the school. These could be held during faculty meetings, before or after school, or during team time. Equipment, such as the newly acquired long-distance learning center, or computer programs would be demonstrated and explained, and staff members and teachers would have the opportunity to both use the equipment and to have questions answered.
- Small groups of staff members and teachers would receive in-service if a particular piece of equipment or a computer program would be especially of benefit to their classroom situation, or they were experiencing difficulty in the use of a program.
- Casual or “help and go” in-service has always been available to staff members who are “stuck” on a troublesome technological task. The school has always benefited from the helpfulness of staff members towards other staff members in the area of technology use. The short conversation of “how do you get it do this or that” has been and will continue to be a strength of the staff, and creates the best learning environment.
- Dennis also has in house staff technology consultants who are trained to assist their peers when they have difficulty utilizing technology or want assistance in incorporating technology in new ways in their instructional practice.

## **Assessment and Evaluations**

A process of how the need for Internet, telecommunications and other technology in the school will be assessed:

The School Improvement Team will form a technology subcommittee to review and evaluate the effectiveness of the building technology plan and to suggest modifications to the plan if needed. The subcommittee will meet as a regular function of the NCA accreditation process.

A strategy of how the overall program will continuously be assessed and evaluated:

This technology plan will continually be assessed and evaluated through the annual revision and monitoring of the School Improvement Plan. The following assessment tools are used to determine technology needs and to document and measure growth in technology skills and integration.

- RCS Parent/Staff survey
- Ongoing survey of staff members for needs and desires in technology instruction.
- Attendance records and evaluation forms for all building level technology staff development activities maintained by the building Technology Consultant
- ISTEP + and Scantron Scores
- District-wide staff technology use survey to measure growth from year to year
- Review of student products.