TECHNOLOGY PLAN

2014-2017

North Dakota School District Technology Plan (2014-2017)

1.   [Technology Plan 2014-2017]

WYNDMERE 42

2.   [Technology Planning Process]

1. How did you get input from a variety of the school's internal and external public (stakeholders)?

We conduct on-line surveys as a means for collecting input. The groups that are surveyed include; patrons, students, and staff members.

2.Who was on your school's planning team? What were their roles?

The school's planning team is made up of elementary and high school staff, elementary and high school building level principals, superintendent, a school board member and a parent. Their roles are relatively the same. They are responsible to review the data collected from the surveys each year and to help draft the technology plan that is ultimately presented to the full school board for approval.

3.How was your plan approved and by whom?

The technology plan is approved by the Technology Committee. That approved plan is then presented to the Wyndmere School Board for final approval.

4.How were your Internet filtering decisions made and by whom?

Internet filtering decisions are made at the Technology Committee level with input from all parties through the technology surveys. The Wyndmere School Board makes the final decision on filtering when it approves the Technology Plan.

5.How did you document that your school's Internet filtering decisions were discussed at a public meeting, such as the school board?

Documentation for the opportunity for public discussion at a Wyndmere School Board meeting is stated in the minutes for that meeting.

6.How was your plan communicated to the school's internal and external publics (stakeholders)?

The results of these surveys as well as the Technology Plan are shared through our district newsletter, school board meeting as well as through K-12 staff meetings.

3.   [Vision Statement]

It is the vision of the Wyndmere School District to enhance learning for its students through the use of technology. We recognize the need for ongoing learning in the area of technology. The use of technology as a tool will enable students, staff, administrators and the community at large to gain the skills to access, understand, communicate and manage information in our technology driven world.

4.   [Goals 1]

i. What goals, strategies and timelines have been identified in your education improvement plan related to creating learning environments that include effective technology resources for educators and students?

The Wyndmere School will keep the most current technology available that the district can afford. The technology committee will be responsible for the plan for upgrading all technology in the school. They will also assist in the planning for staff development.

ii. How will your school decide which hardware, software, telecommunications and other services will be needed to improve education?

Decisions regarding hardware, software, telecommunications and other services will begin with the surveys that are electronically completed each spring by the staff, students and patrons of the district. The technology committee will review this data and then will make recommendations to the school board who will have the final say regarding technology purchases.

iii. What specific technologies will your school use to reach the goals of improved teaching and learning (hardware, software, telecommunications, the Internet)?

The following are a list of technologies currently being utilized to reach the goal of improved teaching and learning; Moby Max, PowerSchool, ITV Video Conferencing, Wireless Lap Top Carts, Computer Lab, Accelerated Reader, STAR Reading and STAR Math. SmartBoard implementation in all instructional classrooms was be completed by the summer of 2011. One other major project is our partnership with STAGEnet.

STAGEnet upgrade Project

The State of North Dakota's Information Technology Department along with STAGEnet partners will continue to develop and enhance a statewide network to service its educational facilities. STAGEnet exists to provide a secure, reliable, and cost-effective network that has the scale and flexibility to support the convergence of data, voice, and video to meet and surpass the objectives of education. The STAGEnet upgrade project will propose to deliver a bandwidth upgrade to schools over the next 2 years. This upgrade will allow us to significantly increase the bandwidth available to schools, with many schools moving from 10mb to either 20mb or to 50 mb in the first year and the possibility of moving to 100mb in year two. Schools needing higher bandwidth will be looked at individually.

iv. How will your school ensure that the learning environments created meet the learning style/needs of all students including students with disabilities and other NCLB subgroups?

Common Core State Standards, Differentiated Learning, Collaborative Learning, STAR Test Results and NDSA Test Results for these subgroups will be reviewed and plans will be changed to meet the needs of those children.

v. How are technology resources distributed in the school (student to computer ratios and, for example, classroom clusters, one-one initiative, computer labs, mobile lab carts, etc.)?

The technology resources are distributed in the Wyndmere School based on need and the results from the data from the surveys as well as STAR and State Testing. (Update) 1:1 implementation of iPads for grades K-4 and laptops for grades 5-12 (Fall 2016).

vi. How will your school provide technical support to ensure that technology resources are reliable and available to educators and students?

Our school district has a technology coordinator that has been given a 50% contract. This allows for time for technical support in an immediate manner. We also have contracted an independent system engineer for major projects or issues that may arise.

5.   [Goals 2]

i. What goals, strategies and timelines have been identified in your school education improvement plan related to supporting educators in their use of appropriate technologies to improve their teaching and other professional practices?

The Wyndmere School has and will continue to offer an in-house technology "graduate credit" course for the effective integration of technology. The course offerings are geared around staff requests and available software/hardware that is available. The skills being taught are relevant in that the staff members have access. Too often staff will go to a workshop outside of school, only to find that they are not able to use those skills when they get back to their own school district. We continue to pay staff a stipend for Atlas Curriculum Mapping as well as for the technology graduate credit class. August in-service days include technology training as is needed.

ii. How will your school assess the technology skills and needs of educators (assessment tools, annual staff evaluation process, etc)?

Our school had been a part of the ND PCC since it's inception. This tool is no longer available. We are currently utilizing the data from our staff surveys to help determine the skill level and needs of our instructional staff in this are. If and when a different tool becomes available, we will consider implementation at that time.

iii. How will your school ensure that educators possess the technology skills they need?

If staff are going to gain the technology skills, they need they need to have professional development offered in a timely and efficient manner. Although we do have staff attend technology workshops outside of the school district, many find the offerings that we have "in-house" to be the most practical and helpful.

1. Who is responsible for professional development in your school?

The technology coordinator and the technology committee are responsible for professional development.

2. How will you select professional development opportunities to be made available to educators?

Professional development opportunities will be made available through our "in-house" graduate class. Topics are driven by staff surveys and by the best practices of technology use based on the most current national strategies.

iv. What types of professional development will be offered by your school (in-house, out of house, online, for credit, which professional development models, hands-on)?

We will offer technology training "in-house" each year. This training will be based on technology surveys that have been conducted in the spring of each year. Staff will be made aware of and encouraged to attend conferences as they are made available. Most if not all training is hands on using the technology that is currently available to that instructor.

v. What type of professional development will your school offer to teachers related to Internet safety and responsible use of the Internet?

Internet Safety is an important part of professional development. Staff have been and will continue to be kept abreast of the changes and safeguards that the school has in place during the August staff in-service that takes place before school each year.

vi. How does your school fund professional development?

Professional development monies come from the "REAPING" of Federal dollars. We also have a continuous technology bond that generates money for technology, including professional development each year.

vii. What types of technology resources does your school use to communicate with students and parents (websites, PowerSchool, etc)?

The two main technology resources that we use to communicate with students and parents is through our school website and our Student Data Information System (PowerSchool). The website has lots of information for both groups and has been set up to be easy to access. One example would be the district newsletter and the school board minutes being made available on the website. The PowerSchool program allows students and parents to check grades, attendance and hot lunch data to name just a few. Both serve as important tools for communicating with our students and parents.

6.   [Goals 3]

v. How will your school make available to students learning opportunities that go beyond teaching technology skills toward using technology resources in collaborative, and project, problem and inquiry-based learning activities in all subject areas?

One example of how we have accomplished this is to have student create collaborative "SmartBoard" lessons. This allows them to utilize the skills that they have seen modeled by the classroom instructor and put them to practical use in a collaborative team assignment. We have also incorporated several "STEM" days in the high school throughout the school year and have just started to do so in the elementary.

vi. How will your school make distance-learning opportunities available to students who may benefit from such experiences?

Our school is a part of a consortium that allows students to take classes through the ITV system with students from SE North Dakota. The opportunities for collaborative, and project, problem and inquiry-based learning activities lend themselves well to this medium.

7.   [Goals 4]

Student achievement is tracked and analyzed through our PowerSchool information system as well as through self made spreadsheets that disaggregate the data from the NDSA and the Star Reading/Star Math assessments. The ND SLDS is another resource of information that is being utilized.

i. What goals, strategies and timelines have been identified in your school? Education improvement plan related to using data systems?

The goals for our current School Improvement cycle include 1) Common Core Usage in Reading, 2) Communication & Collaboration Skills and 3) Library Circulation. The Education Plan specifies STAR Reading as one of the data systems to be used. The reporting system within InfoCentre is another data system that will be used to collect data regarding the library circulation goal.

ii. How will data be used to measure improvements in education in your school?

Data is collected from the STAR Reading assessment a minimum of four times a year for student's grades K-12. The reports are being run against the State Common Core Standards. Vital information is being gleaned from these reports as we strive to prepare our students for the upcoming Common Core Standards. The InfoCentre reports are also being utilized to track student use of the library. This information has helped us to narrow down which grades and groups of students need to targeted for a higher level of use.

8.   [Goals 5]

1. How will your school use online adaptive testing such as NWEA MAP?

Wyndmere is in the first year of STAR Math, STAR Reading and STAR Early Literacy testing. Students in grades K-12 are tested up to four times a year. Several students take the test more often as a part of progress monitoring. The data from the STAR Assessments drives instruction in the classroom as well as our enrichment/intervention program "Moby Max".

2. How will your school use data warehouse/analysis tools such as ViewPoint?

It has not been cost effective for our school to utilize a data warehouse. Hand made spreadsheets with all of the data have been created and are being utilized until those options are more cost effective. The ND SLDS is another option that is being utilized.

3. How will your school use student information systems such as PowerSchool to track student progress and analyze each student achievement gaps and needs for differentiated instruction?

PowerSchool will help us to keep track of each student's grades. We will be able to watch for patterns that could be helpful. The STAR testing however will be a much better tool for analyzing student achievement gaps and where differentiated instruction needs to take place.

9.   [Goals 6]

i. Who is responsible for assessing the results of instructional strategies in your school?

The building level administrators are the first in line for assessing these results. Technology Committee members, through the technology surveys are also a part of the group that assesses these results. The Instructional Strategist would of course be a key player in assessing these results.

ii. How will your school measure the success of each of your technology plan's goals and strategies?

We receive excellent feedback from all parties (students, staff, patrons) through our technology surveys. We are able to see first hand if certain categories are improving, staying the same or are in need of attention.

iii. How will your school technology plan be updated on an annual basis and who is responsible for keeping the plan up to date?

The technology coordinator and the technology committee are responsible for keeping the technology plan up to date. They will continue to generate data from the technology surveys each year and will take that information and update the technology plan as needed.

10.   [Budget]

The Wyndmere School will fund technology mainly through the continuous technology bond that is in place. We currently generate around $37,000 a year for technology. We have been able to utilize some Federal Funds in the past but they are not used on an every year basis. Federal stimulus money created a much high expenditure/revenue for the 2009-2010 school year. The Wyndmere School Board has been very gracious in spending "General Fund" dollars when special projects (i.e. computer lab) come about.

11.   [Technology Plan Contact]

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