TECH

INDIAN HILL HIGH SCHOOL
BRING YOUR OWN TECHNOLOGY

...where learning is individualized, interactive, immediate, intellectual and innovative

2012

Anytime Anywhere Learning...

The District was commissioned by the Board, in the 2009-2011 technology plan, to investigate the feasibility of a 1-to-1 technology program for the District. In the 2009-2010 school year, a committee was formed which included parents, teachers, administrators and students. Over the course of the year, members of this committee (often joined by other teachers) participated in webinars, readiness evaluation sessions and site visits to districts in the Tri-State area who had successfully implemented this type of program. Following this study, it was unanimously decided that a 1-to-1 program would be of great value for our students and teachers. The committee learned the following through this process:

- Students who used their own technology daily were more engaged with the learning process in their classrooms

- Students were more organized

- Students were more fluent with technology and readily chose and applied the tools appropriate to the task at hand

- Teachers were better able to individualize the learning for students

- Teachers were better able to assess the needs of their students

- Better communication occurred between students and teachers

- There was more evidence of collaboration

- Vandalism of equipment was significantly reduced (when this program was implemented well)

- Students tended to take more ownership of their learning

- Learning did not stop when the class ended

While at first the committee investigated a program of purchasing laptops for students, we realized quickly that the current economy, coupled with the ever-decreasing cost of technology, the proliferation of this technology in our students' households and the increasing reduction of funding coming to the District from state and federal levels, made acquiring, maintaining and sustaining a program to purchase technology for students not prudent. As a result, the District decided to focus on "bring your own" technology (BYO) programs.

A closer inspection of BYO programs, provided some surprising results. First, because students supply and own their own technology, they do not expect teachers to be the expert on their hardware and software. This actually frees the teacher to focus on the content they are teaching instead of being focused on the tool. Second, there are some real-life skills that students must acquire with this type of program. For example, if we allow the student to choose the tool they prefer to complete a task (like which word processor they use to type a report), then the student has to learn how to provide the assignment to the teacher in a format that is compatible – a life skill the student MUST possess for his/her future. →

Anytime Anywhere—cont'd

Last, students appreciate having their own choice of tools and ability to update those tools as they determine the need.

The District is excited about our "bring your own technology" initiative after our successes with this approach in the 2011-2012 school year.

Global and National Trends

"Bring your own technology" (also known as BYOT) initiatives are taking public schools by storm – from New Zealand, across Europe and to the United States. The impetus for this seems to be a culmination of factors: affordable technology available to families, technology proliferation in households, widespread availability of tools and data online, the desire for schools to overcome access issues in order to consistently integrate technology in the curriculum, and the focus on the need for 21st century skill development for our children to be competitive in their future workplace.

Consistent access to technology in the classroom has the potential to allow teachers to differentiate and personalize learning. It allows students to organize effectively and engage in their own learning in new and different ways. It allows everyone to rethink teaching and learning in general. Rob McCrae, from Auckland, New Zealand schools, stated it well in his

"A talk to parents: Why laptops?" article[i] when he said:

"No longer does it make sense to focus on content just in case it might be useful...

What has become important is the 'just in time' model. A model which sees essential habits and attitudes of learning being the focus. A model which sees the ability to think about our own thinking as a focus."

Technology in student hands also allows states to redesign their approach. The National Educational Technology Plan published by the U.S. Department of Education in 2010, "Transforming American Education: Learning Powered by Technology," states:

"The model of learning described in this plan calls for engaging and empowering learning experiences for all learners... It leverages the power of technology to provide personalized learning and to enable continu-

ous and lifelong learning.

Many students' lives today are filled with technology that gives them mobile access to information and resources 24/7, enables them to create multimedia content and share it with the world, and allows them to participate in online social networks where people from all over the world share ideas, collaborate and learn new things. Outside school, students are free to pursue their own passions in their own way and at their own pace. The opportunities are limitless, borderless, and instantaneous.

The challenge for our education system is to leverage the learning sciences and modern technology to create engaging, relevant, and personalized learning experiences for all learners that mirror students' daily lives and the reality of their futures. In contrast to traditional classroom instruction, this requires that we put students at the center and empower them to take control of their own learning by providing   →

So what do I need to have for my child?

The type of computer you choose should be solely based on your preference considering features, functions and cost. We believe that to be able to perform all the work that is required of students at Indian Hill, a netbook, laptop or full windows tablet is currently necessary. These machines would run either the full Windows or Apple operating system. Ipads, e-readers or droid-based systems may provide some functionality for your students at school but they may not be able to run all the software required for class activities and are, subsequently, not recommended. Therefore, we ask that students bring laptops, netbooks or windows tablets to school for their work.

If you have a functioning laptop at home which is in working condition and has wireless capabilities, this should be sufficient; *it is not expected that you purchase new equipment*. However, if you are looking to purchase something for your child, the following specifications may help you decide the best tool to meet your child's specific needs:

Systems: Tablets, laptops, and netbooks vary slightly in functionality, features and price.

> Netbooks are considered a smaller, low-end laptop. They typically have an overall smaller size and weight, as well as a smaller processor and less memory. Subsequently, they also tend to have better battery performance during the day. These systems may be able to open less programs at one time, or may not be able to run some high-end programs (like video, graphics or CADD programs) because of their smaller memory and processor.

> Laptops give you a choice of configurations (windows or mac): memory, hard drive, processor, and screen size. Batteries will tend to have a 3-6 hour battery life (which should be sufficient for most students during the school day). These systems can run almost any programs, but do <u>not</u> allow students to physically write or draw with a pen.

> Tablets are similar to laptops except they have the added feature of including pen (electronic ink) capabilities and screens that lay flat for writing purposes. They will be able to be configured similarly to laptops with the same choices. These systems allow students to take notes by hand, annotate and manually highlight documents or other objects, as well as illustrate things (for example, it would be easy to hand draw a graph in a math "notebook" on a tablet). →

"The type of computer you choose should be solely based on your personal preference...to meet your child's specific needs."

"...it is not expected that you purchase new equipment."

DATACOM SPECIALISTS

513-922-0444   support@datacomspecialists.com

discounts, refurbished machines and onsite maintenance

Trends...continued

flexibility on several dimensions. A core set of standards-based concepts and competencies should form the basis of what all students should learn, but beyond that students and educators should have options for engaging in learning: large groups, small groups and work tailored to individual goals, needs, interests, and prior experience of each learner.

By supporting student learning in areas that are of real concern or particular interest to them, personalized learning adds to its relevance, inspiring higher levels of motivation and achievement.

In addition, technology provides access to more learning resources than are available in classrooms and connections to a wider set of "educators," including teachers, parents, experts, and mentors outside the classroom. It also should be used to enable 24/7 and lifelong learning."

We, at Indian Hill Schools, are very excited about being able to engage our students with technology using this initiative in order to ensure we are preparing them appropriately for their world beyond these walls.

[i] http://bigthink.com/ideas/38139?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+dangerouslyirrelevant+%28Dangerously+Irrelevant%29

[ii] http://www.ed.gov/technology/netp-2010

Indian Hill High School

individualized, interactive, intellectual, innovative...

6865 Drake Road
Cincinnati, OH 45243

Phone: 513-272-4550
Text Questions: 513-549-6371
E-mail: itech@ih.k12.oh.us

What software choices are available?

One of the most exciting things about consistent student access to technology that makes this type of initiative truly valuable at this time is the incredible array of software available, *much for free* with access to the internet. While some software use may be guided by the teacher, students will also be able to choose the tool they prefer to use to perform the task. Follow the QR code to see a few options currently available (or go to http://www.indianhillschools.org/hs/BYO/itech-software-suggestions/). Note that apps are added regularly on the web so all are encouraged to periodically check the web for new options.

http://www.indianhillschools.org/hs/technology/byo-faqs/

What do I need... *continued*

Functional considerations:

	Netbook	Laptop/Tablet	Tablet
Weight	±1 lb	4-5 lbs	4-5 lbs
Keyboard	Attached	Attached	Attached and virtual
Screen Size	8-10" surface	14-15"	12"+
Memory	1-2Gig typically	2-8Gig (4G recommended)	2-8Gig (4G recommended)
Hard drive	Up to 320G	Up to 750G (recommend 320-500G)	Up to 750G (recommend 320-500G)
Power*: you may consider replacing batteries after year 2	3-8 hrs varies based on use, age and controls set	3-6 hrs varies based on use, age and controls set	3-6 hrs varies based on use, age and controls set
Cost:	$280-$600	$400-$900	$900-$1400

CD/DVD Players: for netbooks, these typically do not come installed internally, so you would have to purchase an external player. Laptops and tablets may have an internal DVD option. Some models may also let you switch this with a second battery.

Warranty: Most systems come with a one year manufacturer's warranty (note that batteries are not typically covered by this warranty). Extended warranties, which would cover 3-4 years of the machine's life, are typically much more expensive and could ultimately save on the cost of parts over the life of your machine. Accidental Damage warranties are also available to cover damage to the machine not caused by normal wear and tear (like something spilled on a keyboard, or a display cracked by mishandling). For tablets and full laptops, this is typically a good idea to purchase, but not worth the cost with netbooks.

Battery Warranties: some places will offer a warranty or battery warranty that will cover up to two years or more of a battery's life and will allow for one replacement. Since you will most likely want to replace this laptop's battery after year 2, this could be a cost savings.

Cases or bags: most students tend to prefer a protective sleeve/cover that would allow for the computer to travel safely in a backpack. There are also backpacks available with padding to accommodate a laptop or netbook. Some covers are also available in instant-on fashion so that the protective cover stays attached while using the computer. It is suggested that you let your student consider the different options and which they would most consistently use.