

This is an exciting time at WLC MS/HS/. We're transforming how instruction is delivered to students from the traditional way to the 21st century way. Students are being engaged through the use of technology by devices such as interactive whiteboards, power point presentations, software programs, online websites, blogs, and digital portfolio's. It's so exciting that we in this room will have an opportunity to play a very important role in this transformation. The changes in how education is delivered to students have already been taking place. Teachers have been receiving professional development in areas such as electronic digital portfolios, Google Drive and Google Docs applications, interactive whiteboard training, just to name a few. The Professional Day on January 30th is devoted to technology. Because of this PD the number of teachers interested in using technology has grown.

As part of the three-year science plan to improve test scores computers have been added into all science classes. We are now offering a computer art class, a 21st-century class in the middle school, an hour of code took place last month exposing all middle school and high school students to computer programming. Teachers have developed websites to interact with students and families in the classroom and at home. And on April 23rd from 6- 8pm we will be showcasing some of these skills to the community by having a STEAM night celebration.

The two things that have been getting in the way of this transformation have been network issues and available devices for students. The network is being addressed as we speak, available devices is another issue. The number of teachers interested in using technology has grown. Teachers are expressing frustration when labs are unavailable. The unavailability of these labs takes place regularly. The problem is compounded during testing times of the year. Labs can be unavailable for upwards of two weeks at a time. Smarter Balanced Assessment is now being added to the schedule which will create more of an issue.

Everything that is in the 2015-2016 budget is included in the technology plan. Included in this plan is a rollout schedule for all devices. Our goal is to have available technology for all students. Part of this rollout plan is already taking place. Interactive whiteboards will be in year two of a three year plan to have whiteboards in every classroom as well as computers for teachers. Throughout next year data will be collected which will indicate usage. This data will be evaluated to decide the need for more devices. An integral part of the Good to Great Initiative is technology. As we as a district move forward into the future it's imperative that technology is supported.

Brian Bagley

