Technology Integration Study  
Panel Questions  
Transcript of Panel Discussion  
Technology Committee Meeting 12/19/17

Please ask panel members to introduce themselves.

Please take turns asking questions and allow time for a few, but not all, panel members to respond to each one. Feel free to ask a follow up question if necessary. The panel should last NO LONGER than one hour, and it is fine to finish early.

DAN BECHTOLD, Principal, Radnor High School: Is technology impacting learning in Radnor and if so, how?

Student Responses:
- Technology is integral part to instruction and learning process, Schoology and Notability very important
- 1-to-1 devices give resources and materials equally to everyone (all students) equitable access
- Different apps for different subject areas, can take data and manipulate the data in school and at home
- Google Docs and Google Drive allow for students to collaborate in and out of school
- Notability very useful for organization
- Technology gives students a lot more time to learn

Teacher Responses:
- Focus on different apps for different subjects, topics, task
- Technology allows for more creativity and access to information for all students
- Notability extremely useful to students, everything organized for them in one, easy to use format
- Students always have access to their notes
- Science – draw models of atoms in Notability and other chemistry related concepts, setting up graphs easily, more time to manipulate data instead of having to input it by hand
- Sparkview app gives real time data for students to analyze

GABRIEL SAVAGE, Assistant Principal, Wayne Elementary School: In what ways do you measure the impact technology has on learning?

Student Responses:
- How much technology penetrates the classroom, how many classroom use it regularly, students are using it effectively
- Counter argument- play games, sending memes back and forth in class, Apple Classroom has mitigated game playing spend more time learning
- Efficiency improves learning - reduces the amount of time setting up for learning so more time can be focused on learning, increased pace for learning
- Discussion board in class allows students to share thinking throughout the class. Happens in parallel to class discussions, a lot more input, sharing out of box thinking

Teacher Responses:
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- In what ways do I measure impact and what ways can I measure impact? The most easily measured is the efficient use of time in classroom. Technology is a means to an end and not an end in itself. Outcomes are not mechanical tasks like making a movie, but the better examples but hard to measure is how we can get students to prioritize intellect choices. Students can look up facts as they need throughout conversations instead of being told. Students support active learning. There is not any way to measure but important impact
- Students measure their own learning much more through the use of technology. Digital portfolios allow student to measure their own growth to evaluate the process, present their final products, and reflect upon their own growth. They can also share beyond these four walls.

**BECHTOLD:** What would teaching/learning be like if 1:1 technology was no longer provided by the school?

**Student Responses:**

- Lack of 1:1 technology would create a barrier between work in school and at home. Important to be able to use device to bring work back and forth and use the same applications.
- Without 1:1 it creates a divide between the haves and have nots.
- The technology allows greater collaboration among students when assigned group work; otherwise one or two members of the group may be charged with the brunt of the work.

**Teacher Responses:**

- There is an increased cost associated with photocopy machines which is reduced with Schoology.
- Without 1:1, more teacher time for organization and management is required, which takes the emphasis off of learning.
- The backpack would be heavier as students are carrying more to and from school.
- Flexibility would be reduced if 1:1 is not available; right now, kids can work anywhere at any time.

**SAVAGE:** Schoology is the district’s Learning Management System. Can we have one teacher and one student that would like to explain to the group what a LMS like Schoology is and does?

**Student Responses:**

- Online platform that students and teachers have access to, teachers can post resources, information, notes, homework, messages, etc.
- Schoology is the place for students to go to get all of their resources for classes
- Calendar options, students will know what’s due when, test and homework schedule
- Everyone has access to information, means of communication, messaging to all students and teachers
- Students can submit assignments to teachers, get feedback and teacher can send it back to the students seamlessly
- Never use Schoology in Math!!!
- Not every teacher uses Schoology
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Teacher Responses:
- If absent, student can get all the information, notes, homework from the day that you missed, don’t have to wait until you get back into school
- Everything is really organized in Schoology; can’t lose things, students are much more organized, makes it easy for students to keep their school lives organized
- Balance of high tech and low tech is a good thing
- Helps students develop organizational skills
- Giving students the access to whatever they need when they need it

**BECHTOLD**: Has Schoology impacted the student learning experience? How?

Student Responses:
- Communication, collaboration, access to resources, connection to teachers, students, calendar helps with time organizations,
- Everything organized for students - may not support development of organizational skills, still worth making it easy for those who struggle with organization.
- Math will never use Schoology so there are opportunities to develop organization and accountability
- Balance of high tech vs. low tech, it may not be a bad thing for some classes to not use Schoology. If a teacher feels it would not benefit students’ ability to learn and access materials, it may be better to not use it.
- One click and we can access today’s news articles, journals, upload to Notability and annotate and analyze while discussing with peers
- HAC is great resource for students keeping on top of learning.

Teacher Responses:
- 24-7 access to library resources; Library is always “open” through online databases, check out a book anytime
- Transparency for parents - track assignments, calendars, etc. supports parents connection to student learning

**SAVAGE**: Do Radnor High School students need technology? Why/why not?

Student Responses:
- At a major disadvantage in college and workforce without the use of technology. While we do not necessarily need it right now, it will be needed later.
- HAC allows students to access grades easily and check to see if there is any missing work.

Teacher Responses:
- Technology helps students to make students more efficient. If technology is not provided, potential learning is being reduced. Students need technology because the world is filled with technology. If we don’t prepare students by teaching students how to use technology properly (i.e. digital citizenship), then we are putting students at a disadvantage later on.
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- Library is never closed; students can access resources at any time easily. Students have systems in place to think critically and interact with text on a deeper level.

**BECHTOLD:** Thinking of our current 5th graders, what would you hope those students could experience when they arrived here at Radnor High School?

**Student Responses:**

- Technology is not for games, technology can actually help you learn, I’ve learned more through the use of my iPad
- What is the role of school – prepare students for the sacred role of citizenship
- Technology will be more present than ever before and will be ever more present, more cutting edge and we (students) need to be prepared for that future

**BECHTOLD & SAVAGE:** Questions from the committee?

- I feel that laptop is more awkward for note taking. Using a device for myself from class to outside class. Notability and other apps provide great ways to access and interact with resources,
- What is the impact of technology on different types of students (ELL, etc)
  - ELL could use translators to allow students to read both English and in their language. This was extremely helpful for both the teacher and students so they could access learning.
  - Absent a lot - when they get back they can get all the notes they miss instantaneously. They can review notes and ask questions rather then mindlessly copy notes from peers.
- Perception of distraction from having device; What do you think is an effective way for the district to approach the distractibility of devices?
  - Pencil and paper would lead to doodling.
  - Teachers can view screens through Apple. We can still improve. Apple Classroom has helped alleviate distractions. Teachers can block iPads from WiFi. They can control which applications they can use. There may be potential for other solution.
  - I don’t think technology is the underlying problem. The student may have a lack of motivation or reason for staying on task. The problem should be addressed through non technological means. Playing games is a symptom of the problem.
- How user friendly are the apps on iPad?
  - Very intuitive - very accessible manner, even if you never used it before you can figure it out quickly. Features are quite simple.
- Writing becomes illegible so I prefer to type. I tend to use a laptop rather than an iPad.
- Parents shared that by junior year, they are buying laptops. Does everyone feel they need a laptop as well?
  - I prefer typing long papers on the computer.
  - It comes down to personal preference. For typing long papers, I use a laptop. For Schoology, I use the iPad as well as for short answers.
  - We need something we can easily carry back and forth.
- Use of Notability, does it shortchange students for developing to develop writing skills. Is everything shorter and brief?
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- I don’t think so as some assignments require short answers. It doesn’t supplant writing longer essays. Replaces worksheets, etc, and notes. Easy to access notes later. It does not effect writing skills.
- Formal lab reports, plenty opportunities to keep writing journals, write lab reports

- Given current experience with technology, what are three things that would improve experience:
  - The Internet is very spotty. Better Internet
  - Choice between iPad or laptops
  - Bluetooth capability of iPad

- Have note taking abilities improved? Do you use different colors, etc.
  - color code notes is my favorite, limitless to bring in resources and interact with limitless information, increased my note taking on information, improves learning

- Notes are in Notability for you to then enhance. I can type much faster than I can write. I then find my notes are the only resource I need.

- Where did you learn to type?
  - Middle school, 2nd Grade, an actual course, AlphaSmart typing course.

- Coding needs to be taught to students. I think that is a good point. 2nd year college students need to pay money to learn how to code. It would be beneficial to understand coding. What devices do they code on - mostly MAC books.

- Where do you learn the skills to use the application skills, digital fluency, etc? Are all students equally facile with technology?
  - Kids attend camp outside of school. Some kids are not interested. Some kids teach themselves.