



ALBANY AREA SCHOOLS

A Community of Successful Learners

2016-2018 Technology Plan

Draft

December 4, 2015

Background & Purpose

Background

Albany Area Schools has served Albany, MN and the surrounding community since 1938.

The district serves the communities of Albany, Avon, Farming, St. Anthony, and St. Martin. With nearly 1,690 students and 260 teachers and support staff, our district is comprised of the following buildings:

- One Early Childhood Center
- Two Elementary Schools
- One Secondary School (Junior and Senior High)

The district is focused on small class sizes, rigorous curriculum, student opportunities, experienced staff, lifelong learning opportunities, and community partnerships.

Purpose

The purpose of this document is to outline and define the Technology Plan for Albany Area Schools for the years 2016-2018. With an increased demand for devices, bandwidth, and Internet tools, there is a need for a detailed, focused plan that will ensure our success in the future.

Belief Statements

We Believe

- Effective use of technology will lead to the development of learners who approach problems more creatively, think more critically, collaborate more skillfully, and communicate with higher levels of precision.
- Students, teachers, and administrators must be able to process, manage, and share information through the use of technology.
- Technology helps teachers individualize instruction to meet each student's unique needs.
- Technology accelerates students' access to current information.
- Technology allows teachers to be more efficient with time and resources.

- Technology prepares students with 21st century workplace skills for the demands of an ever-changing, global society.
- Technology helps students and teachers create their own personal learning network. Albany Area Schools supports and encourages teachers' use of social media platforms to promote and foster their professional development, to demonstrate the learning of our students, and build a professional network of connected educators.

Pillars of Technology

Overview

We have identified the following pillars for our plan:

1. Leadership
2. Curriculum Content/Student Outcomes
3. Professional Development
4. Assessment
5. Connectivity
6. Support
7. Learning Devices
8. Community
9. Investment

Leadership

We will create a technology plan that will be shared with all staff as a means of articulating our vision. Our Site Technology Teams will work with the staff in their buildings on building specific technology needs, and these needs will be shared with a broader audience at the District Technology Team meetings.

Curriculum Content/Student Outcomes

Effectively maintain balance of traditional teaching methods and technology based. To do this, teachers will meet with an IT person regularly or as needed. We will support increased access to textbooks and other supplemental content via technology. We will integrate technology across the district, in a meaningful way, keeping in mind the use of

the 4 Cs (Communication, Collaboration, Creativity, and Critical Thinking) and 21st Century Skills.

Professional Development

We will begin to infuse the 4 Cs (Creativity, Collaboration, Communication, and Critical Thinking) into our Professional Development sessions. We will continue to offer technology mini-sessions, how-to videos, before/after school offerings, and dedicated PD days based on feedback from staff.

Year 1: Introduce district staff to the 4 Cs terminology. Use verbiage in PD sessions throughout the year. Increase time spent on technology during Professional Development days.

Year 2: Work with staff to formulate their personal goals infusing curriculum with the 4 Cs. Continue to use the 4Cs in Professional Development sessions.

Assessment

We will assess technology use and needs through our technology committees. Student and site level committees report to the district committee. We will keep communication open between all committees, and take and share notes for clarity and accountability. We will continually assess tech support needs and effectiveness, by surveying teachers and staff, and analyzing individual and Help Desk emails. We will also use BrightBytes data.

Connectivity

Based on our last BrightBytes survey, 98% of our students have access to the Internet at home. In all buildings, we have a mix of wired and wireless computers and devices that students can use to connect to the Internet. Opportunities to use devices are available before and after school at all buildings. We will make students and parents aware of their options to connect from our buildings, if needed. If home access issues exist in the future, we may explore a partnership with our local telephone/Internet provider.

Support

We will develop a culture of support and empowerment, by encouraging and rewarding innovative lessons with and without technology use.

- Maintain help@albanyschools.on.spiceworks.com email
- Create a collection of tech how-to and tech help videos under “Staff Resources” on the school website
- IT Staff schedules available to teachers to sign-up for one-on-one time when needed (JH/SH), monthly small group and grade level technology meetings during school day (elementaries)

Learning Devices

Have devices available at all grade levels and content areas.

- Senior High - continue BYOD 1:1 student to device ratio, continue to provide Chromebooks for checkout
- Junior High - move toward 1:1 Chromebooks, 7th grade next year ('16-'17), 8th grade ('17-'18) if possible in the budget, 6th grade would have 2 Chromebook carts, 1 iPad cart to share
- Elementaries - move toward 2:1 ratio with iPad minis, 5th grade could possibly move to 1:1 or individual teachers petition for 1:1 as budget allows

Community

Staff will meet minimum expectations set forth by their building administrator for classroom websites and Schoology courses. Current expectations include:

- Senior High & Junior High - Schoology course for each class taught
- Elementary & ECC - Up to date website with curriculum links and contact information

These expectations are subject to change as access to programs and devices evolve.

Investment

We will maintain and update a long-term technology purchase plan, keeping in mind replacements and upkeep of teacher and student devices, infrastructure, and other classroom technology. We plan to maintain our current device numbers, and purchase additional devices according to requests from Staff and ability to budget for sustaining any additions. Requests will be submitted to and evaluated by the Administrative Technology Committee.