

Gower District #62

Superintendent's Report

Appendix C

Date: June 16, 2015

Title: i3 Learning Initiative: A Year in Review

Initial Contact: Rebecca Laratta: rlaratta@gower62.com

Background

Continuous improvement and looking for innovative ways to engage students and increase student learning are important goals of the administrative team and the teachers. INNOVATE 62 and the administrative team worked together to research different devices and how increasing student access to devices and digital resources can change teaching and learning for students in Gower.

In January 2014, (Superintendent Report Appendix B - District Technology Plan Update - Jan 21, 2014, *shared at end of document*) the Board received an update on the District Technology Plan, the work of INNOVATE 62 Committee, as well as the “Take-The-Tech Home” pilot at Gower Middle School. At that time Board members were informed about and discussed the steps that were taken to date to increase the number of student devices in Gower.

The INNOVATE 62 committee completed their site visits, learned from the students’ feedback in “Take-The-Tech Home”, and put all of the information together to determine what the committee thought were the most important components that would be beneficial for student learning. In addition, INNOVATE 62 participated in a visioning activity to create what we want teaching and learning to be like in 3 to 5 years. Through this process, INNOVATE 62 was ready to launch an i³ Learning Initiative for the 2014-2015 school year with additional plans being further developed for the FY 16 and FY17 school years. The i³ Learning: Innovate, Integrate, and Inspire will focus on innovating in the classroom, integrating digital learning beyond the traditional classroom setting, and inspiring students to create content rather than just consume content.

In order to support this learning initiative, additional devices were purchased. INNOVATE 62 recommended an i³ Learning teacher proposal or application for the 2014-2015 school year in March, 2014 (Superintendent Report Appendix D - Innovate 62 Update - March 18, 2014, *shared at end of document*) . Successful applicants became “early adopters” of i³ Learning in Gower. The administrative team granted six proposals from grades K-2 with iPad Airs, four classes from grades 3-4 with Chromebooks, and two grade level teams at Gower Middle with Chromebooks. This proposal would result in 150 additional iPads and 350 new Chromebooks across the District. Teacher grant recipients were required to participate in additional professional development opportunities, use the District-approved Learning Management System, and attend an i³ Learning Parent Night in August before scheduled Teacher Institute Days. Infrastructure and equipment purchases were made using the remaining 2013-2014 (FY14) District Technology budget along with the anticipated 2014-2015 (FY15) District Technology Budget. INNOVATE 62 and the Gower Professional Development Committee utilized i³ Learning as the theme and focus in planning the 2014 Summer Curriculum Work and the 2014-2015 Professional Development opportunities.

In August 2014, two evenings of i3 Parent Presentations were held at Gower West and Gower Middle Schools. Parents learned about the i3 Learning Initiative, the devices that their students would be using, the district plans for using a learning management system, as well as care and responsibility of the device.

Current State

During the 2014-2015 school year, all kindergarten classrooms had iPads for every student. At Gower West, the following classrooms were Year 1 i3 adopters with iPads:

- Ms. Borek, 1st grade
- Mrs. Hackbarth, 1st grade
- Mrs. Nigro, 2nd grade
- Mrs. Reynolds, 2nd grade

At Gower West, the following classrooms were Year 1 i3 adopters with Chromebooks:

- Mrs. Bjork, 3rd grade
- Mrs. Coit, 3rd grade
- Mrs. Christopher, 4th grade
- Mrs. Roberts, 4th grade

At Gower Middle, the 6th and 7th grade teams were Year 1 i3 adopters with Chromebooks.

Our current inventory includes 150 i3 iPads and 350 Chromebooks. This provided the student devices for i3 as well a set of loaners for each learning center. Devices have a Gower District 62 asset tag and are inventoried through each Learning Center computer. In addition, the Chromebooks have a control tag from the company that we purchased the devices from. Devices are checked out to students through scanning the asset tag and control tags. Records are maintained in each Learning Center as well as the District office. We anticipate our inventory in 2015-2016 will include an additional: 120 iPads (including new Kindergarten classroom) and 275 Chromebooks.

Each District owned device was issued to a student with a Gower approved cover and charger. Parents were required to sign a permission form and technology agreement prior to a student taking the device home. There were no additional fees to use these devices at home and at school unless the student damaged the device.

In Year 1 of our i3 Learning Initiative, i3 teacher recipients met at the District level 3 times during the school year (fall, winter, spring) to collaborate on what we have learned, share strategies, and plan future professional development experiences. Year 1 adopters also had the opportunity to meet with Year 2 adopters several times throughout the year to share what works and new ideas for the classroom.

We gathered feedback from both teachers and students on the “Year in Review” for i3 Learning.

Student Feedback:

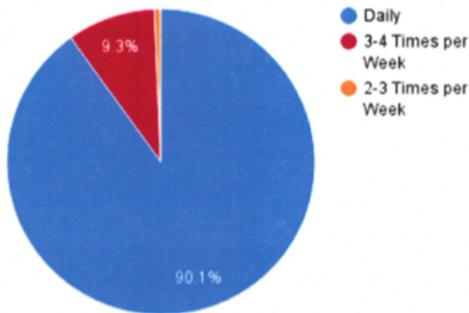
The student feedback from Gower West will be presented in a video format at the meeting. At this level, we thought it was best to interview the students and share their thoughts in a visual presentation.

The student feedback from Gower Middle was based on survey responses from 150 students in 6th and 7th grade who completed the survey. (See attached graphs for additional information)

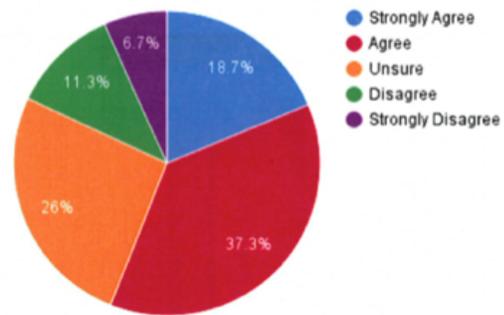
- 136 out of 150 students indicated they use their Chromebook daily
- 142 out of 150 students indicated that they feel their skill level is High for accessing Google Drive
- 140 out of 150 students indicated that they feel their skill level is High for using Google Documents
- 138 out of 150 students indicated that they feel their skill level is High for Sharing Documents
- 147 out of 150 students indicated that they use their Chromebook to access the online textbooks
- 148 out of 150 students indicated that they use their Chromebook to create documents, spreadsheets

Student Feedback Data:

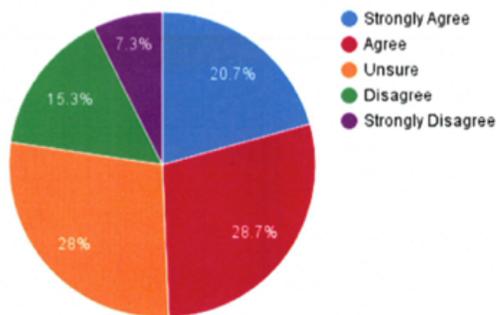
I Use a Chromebook



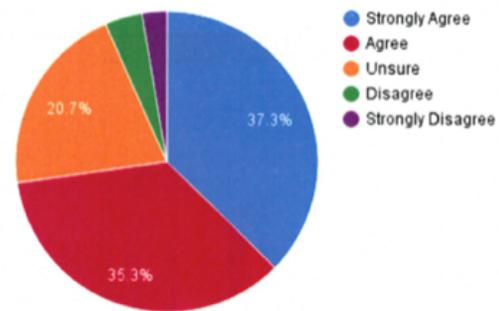
Increased Excitement to Learn



Motivated Me to Do More Schoolwork



Increased Quality of My Work



Teacher Feedback:

All i3 Recipients were asked to discuss how teaching and learning has changed in their classrooms because of the i3 Learning Initiative.

Reflections from K-2 teachers:

- Increased student motivation
- Immediate feedback and information
- Increased creativity
- Organization of the class (flow) is better
- Students are engaged in learning using the device rather than paper/pencil
- Sharing of student work is easier
- Increased differentiation of instruction
- Increased individualized instruction
- Increased collaboration virtually
- Students are able to access and log on to programs with less help from adults

Reflections from 3rd and 4th grade teachers:

- Students are sharing documents and collaborating on their work
- Peer editing is more effective
- Students can work at their own pace

- Devices offer more opportunities for the students to collaborate on projects inside and outside of the classroom
- It is part of the everyday learning experience
- Students are really 21st Century Learners and not tied to books or resources that are in the classroom
- Students share about their learning more often
- Students are writing more and they don't even realize it—just part of the day
- The device has become an everyday learning tool rather than just used once in awhile
- Students have become problem solvers and helpful to one another; building of student confidence in themselves as problem solvers with tech
- Students are better at navigating the Internet and programs

Reflections from 6th and 7th grade teachers:

- Immediate teacher feedback
- Immediate access to information
- Increases collaboration between students and teacher as well as among students
- Collaborative groups are effective and easier
- Increased organization of students
- Connect to current world events and students seem more culturally aware
- Able to use online test taking and see immediate results
- Able to present ideas and presentations through Chrome casting
- Utilize Schoology as a “launch pad” for class (links that the students need, directions, assignments can all be posted here)
- Work that the class completes is posted on Schoology; helps with absent students
- Homework with links and attached documents can be posted on Schoology
- Teachers feel they are able to do more direct instruction/collaborative groups in class because these other processes are in taken care of through Schoology
- Teachers can connect with students outside of the school walls to answer questions, provide feedback

INNOVATE 62 Committee Feedback

The INNOVATE 62 Committee feels that we have had a successful first year and we accomplished so much in one year! We are pleased with the feedback from our students and teachers, and will utilize this information as we plan the 2015-2016 school year. In reflecting on Year 1, INNVOATE 62 believed the Chromebook implementation was quick, efficient, and smooth. The iPad implementation was a little slower than expected with Apple IDs and loading apps. This was a frustrating experience, but we have learned that we weren't alone in this as many districts experienced the same. At the end of this school year, we began the process of completing apple IDs for next year's i3 students, so that we could use the summer to prepare these devices. The other issue that we had to monitor throughout the year was the connectivity and bandwidth. Although, the District took steps to ensure the readiness of the infrastructure, the bandwidth needed to be increased by December from 40 to 100 Mbps. Furthermore, we increased our bandwidth from 100 to 200 Mbps in April. The District also increased our Ethernet network interface from 10/100 Mbps to 1 Gigabit to enhance our overall network speed and reliability.

Throughout the school year, we did have damage to devices at both schools. As the middle school students are much more mobile throughout their school day, we did see more damage to Chromebooks in 6th and 7th grade. Some of the damage to devices could be addressed “in house” by the Engaged Learning Specialists and Tech Consultant, while other devices needed to go back to Samsung or Apple for repair. Parents were charged for parts if the student damaged the device as per the Gower Technology Agreement and Damage Procedures. We anticipate some of the damage for Chromebooks decreasing as Samsung addressed a couple of these issues in the new model for the 2015-2016 school year.

In reflecting on our vision and the impact on teaching and learning, committee members had the following insights:

- Biggest positive is learning beyond the school day and school walls--discussion boards, collaboration among students and teachers, noticing even how late students are working
- We are doing things that we never have done before!
- Teachers can be even more innovative, paperless classroom
- Students are learning to be more innovative--students “own” their learning
- Just in time learning
- Streamlined workflow for students--life skill--project management
- Easier to differentiate instruction for students
- Younger kids have developed into “communicators”---verbally, written, online collaborators
- Students are motivated to start new things--innovative, initiate projects on their own
- Teachers and students really like Schoology--springboard for the class
- Discussion group among different classrooms
- Homework can be posted--ask and post questions
- Students are organizing themselves

Future State

As we reflect on the success of Year 1, plans are well underway for our Year 2 Implementation. Summer professional development opportunities, the i3 I'm Lovin' It menu of options will provide teachers with specific workshops to attend led by Gower teachers. The offerings are the same as last year, with the exception of a new offering, “My i3 Classroom”.

The INNOVATE 62 Committee and Year 1 i3 Teachers has ideas and recommendations for our Year 2 implementation. The committee will further discuss the use of Schoology to possibly replace Homework Hotline in 2016-2017. The committee also will implement a Student Led Help Desk for Chromebooks in each building during the 2015-2016 school year. Some students will be trained during the summer i3 Innovation Lab: i fix it!

The INNOVATE 62 Committee and the Year 1 i3 teachers recommend that students continue to make it a priority to charge their device at home nightly. Currently, there is a loaner or charging system in place at both buildings for times when students do not charge their device at home. This committee also recommends that parents may want to purchase the additional Chromebook sleeve for extra protection. We did have these sleeves available for purchase last year and we will have them ready for next year as well.

We will continue to use Schoology as a free Learning Management tool District-wide. We feel the consistency for students, parents, and teachers is beneficial for this i3 Learning Initiative. In addition, the District will utilize GoGuardian as an effective tool to monitor student use of the device remotely to ensure student safety on the Internet. Parents have been appreciative of the school communication if something comes up as a “red flag”. Students are very aware that the device is District owned and their online safety is a priority.

District administrators and teachers are looking forward to Year 2 of the i3 Learning Initiative: Innovate, Integrate, Inspire! We are on track with our budget plans for FY15 and FY16, preparing devices, and teacher professional development opportunities. Parents also received a “Save the Date” flyer in report card envelopes for the i3 Parent Presentations on August 26th at Gower West and September 2nd at Gower Middle. These presentations are the same and are only for parents who are new to the i3 Learning Initiative. If a parent attended last August, they do not need to attend again. The i3 parent forms will be sent home with students after school starts in August.

Gower District #62

Superintendent's Report

Appendix D

Date: March 18, 2014

Title: INNOVATE 62 Proposal (5 min.)

Initial

Contact: Rebecca Laratta: rlaratta@gower62.com

Background

Continuous improvement and looking for innovative ways to engage students and increase student learning are important goals of the administrative team and the teachers. INNOVATE 62 and the administrative team have worked together to research different devices and how increasing student access to devices and digital resources can change teaching and learning for students in Gower. The need for more student devices in our classrooms has surfaced multiple times in our recent INNOVATE 62 meetings including, but not limited to the ELA Curriculum Committee and grade level team meetings.

In January 2014, the Board received an update on the District Technology Plan, the work of INNOVATE 62 Committee, as well as the “Take-The-Tech Home” pilot at Gower Middle School. At that time Board members were informed about and discussed the steps we have taken to date to increase the number of student devices in Gower.

Current State

The INNOVATE 62 committee completed their site visits, learned from the students’ feedback in “Take-The-Tech Home”, and put all of the information together to determine what the committee thought were the most important components that would be beneficial for student learning. In addition, INNOVATE 62 participated in a visioning activity to create what we want teaching and learning to be like in 3 to 5 years. Through this process, INNOVATE 62 is ready to launch an i³ Learning Initiative for the 2014-2015 school year with additional plans being further developed for the FY 16 and FY17 school years. The i³ Learning: Innovate, Integrate, and Inspire will focus on innovating in the classroom, integrating digital learning beyond the traditional classroom setting, and inspiring students to create content rather than just consume content.

Future State

In order to support this learning initiative, additional devices will need to be purchased. INNOVATE 62 is recommending an i³ Learning teacher proposal or application for the 2014-2015 school year. The attached application has been approved by the INNOVATE 62 committee and District administrators for teachers to receive on March 24, 2014. This application process provides teachers an opportunity to share how they might use devices to further integrate digital learning within and beyond their classroom. Successful applicants will become “early adopters” of i³ Learning in Gower. The administrative team plans to grant six proposals from grades K-2 with iPad Airs, four classes from grades 3-4 with Chromebooks, and two grade level teams at Gower Middle with Chromebooks. This proposal would result in 150 additional iPads and 350 new Chromebooks across the District. Teacher grant recipients would be required to participate in additional professional development opportunities, use the District-approved Learning Management System, and attend an i³ Learning Parent Night in August before scheduled Teacher Institute Days. Applications would be due on April 25, 2014, to provide time to review, determine grant recipients, schedule professional development opportunities, and plan effectively for the 2014-2015 school year. Infrastructure and

equipment purchases can be made using the remaining 2013-2014 (FY14) District Technology budget along with the anticipated 2014-2015 (FY15) District Technology Budget pending approval. INNOVATE 62 and the Gower Professional Development Committee will utilize i³ Learning as the theme and focus in planning the 2014 Summer Curriculum Work and the 2014-2015 Professional Development opportunities.

This proposal fits within our current FY14 technology budget (\$218,000) with an anticipated FY15 technology budget of approximately \$200,000-\$250,000.

Implications/Considerations:

- Technology Fee for each student added in 2014-2015 (i.e. \$15.00)
- Full Integration Fee for families to exercise the option of bringing the assigned equipment home (i.e. \$50.00)
- District Policy/Procedures (i.e. Acceptable Use Policy, Internet Safety)
- Year 2 of the i³ Learning Initiative (remaining classrooms and on-going professional development)

Gower District #62

Superintendent's Report

Appendix B

Date: January 21, 2014

Title: District Technology Plan Update (5 min.)

Initial

Contact: Rebecca Laratta – rlaratta@gower62.com

Background

Continuous improvement and looking for innovative ways to engage students and increase student learning are important goals of the administrative team and the teachers. INNOVATE 62 and the administrative team are working together to research different devices and how a 1:1 initiative can change teaching and learning for students in Gower.

Current State

District leaders continue to develop and complete the District Technology Plan, which is due on February 28, 2014. Two initiatives are in process to inform the Technology Plan.

“Take-The-Tech Home”:

Kevin Neubert, Engaged Learning Specialist has led a “*Take-the-Tech-Home*” pilot at Gower Middle School. Before break, two 8th grade students were randomly selected to try out a Chromebook for a week and a MacBook Air for a week to evaluate the features of both devices and share their feedback on a Google Doc. Currently, two 7th grade students have the devices and are using them at school and at home. Parents were contacted and given a permission slip to sign. Here are some of the quotes from the students regarding their experiences:

- “Overall, I was very happy with this computer and it would work well for students in every aspect. However, I was disappointed in the lack of opportunities for use during class. I feel that if students were to have their own laptops, teachers would have to present more opportunities for computer use.”- 8th grade student
- “I really enjoyed my time with the Chromebook, and I will miss it very much. I liked how all the Google apps are connected to one Google account which make it easier to access them. The whole time I felt connected through the uses of Drive and was able to change settings easily and work the Chromebook to my liking. It is a very good computer that has kept me VERY organized this past week.” -7th grade student
- “I think that this laptop would be useful in Gower because it’s so much like the usual laptops, except smaller and the letters, numbers, and stuff on the keyboard glow-anyway, it would be easy to use because of the familiarity. I can do everything I usually do at home, or on a school laptop. There are no known difficulties so far.” -7th grade student
- “All in all, I was happy with the computer and it was a valuable tool throughout this week. I would give it an 8 out of 10 because it had a few problems, but it was durable, fast, and lightweight. I think this was a good experience to use something other than an Apple, and I think the Chromebook was a very good student laptop.” –8th grade student

INNOVATE 62 Site Visits:

INNOVATE 62 members visited other school districts to learn how their 1:1 pilot or implementation is impacting teaching and learning. The site visits were selected based on their current state of implementing a 1:1 initiative and recognition of districts for their process. For example, Leyden High School District was named in “35 High Schools Worth Visiting.” *Education Week* 13 Nov. 2013, specifically as a 1:1 leader and National Teachers Academy in Chicago has hosted hundreds of educators on technology based site visits and viewed as a strong innovator in the field. Small groups of teachers and administrators participated in site visits to:

- McClure Junior High, Western Springs
- El Sierra Elementary School, Downers Grove
- National Teachers Academy, Chicago
- Leyden East High School, Franklin Park

On January 29, 2014, INNOVATE 62 members will visit schools within South Berwyn, also recognized for their use of technology to support teaching and learning. Ray Harth, our District’s Technology Consultant has been a part of several visits to determine the infrastructure needs and assess Gower’s bandwidth and access points. These visits have been helpful to reaffirm and sharpen our approach and implementation plan to increase technology use across the District in support of teaching and learning.

Future State

The committee plans to meet on February 10, 2014, to share what they have learned on the visits and discuss future recommendations for Gower. Ray Harth, in collaboration with District leaders will also prepare recommendations needed for the completion of the District Technology Plan. A follow-up report will be presented to the Board in March.