

DEPARTMENT OF TECHNOLOGY AND MEDIA SERVICES
Wilmette Public Schools

INFORMATION ITEM

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To: Raymond E. Lechner, Ph.D.
Superintendent of Schools

From: Adam Denenberg
Director of Technology and Media Services

Subject: #iPad Monday: 1:1 Learning Update

Project Red Implementation Strategies

When researching 1:1 learning programs, the district reviewed the *Project Red Roadmap for Transformation* report. This large-scale national study (conducted by a group of educators and industry professionals) identified factors that make great K-12 technology implementations. These researchers examined programs at over one thousand schools and identified key implementation factors for successful 1:1 programs. These guidelines continue to be implemented in District 39, a few examples highlighted below.

- **Change led by building leadership-** *Project Red* recommends building leaders model technology usage and provide ongoing collaboration time and professional development. Dr. Palzet and the four grade level administrators continue to provide the resources for planning and collaboration for all middle school and junior high teachers. Both schools have monthly iPad Steering Committees led by the sixth and seventh grade level administrators. These groups provide 1:1 learning program feedback, request staff development, make program recommendations, and discuss current concerns and accomplishments. Both schools also hold iPad collaboration meetings twice a month during common planning time and provide iPad staff development at faculty meetings. At staff meetings administrators use technology tools like online presentations and word walls to share information and lead discussions. The administrators also model technology usage with the iPad data dashboard where they analyze data, maintain instructional notes, and make instructional decisions. Finally, the administrators create videos for parent and teacher communication, such as activities in the science labs, and post 1:1 learning program updates on social media.

- **Online collaboration-** *Project Red* recommends students use technology daily for online collaboration as it can erase the barriers of time and distance. Many students who have trouble with a concept can use technology-based collaboration tools to query a peer for assistance. Through the use of tools such as *Google Drive, Nearpod, Blogger, Adobe Voice*, and the district learning management system, online collaboration is a key component of the district's 1:1 learning program. Students are collaborating on discussions, presentations, and reports at school and at home. The students continue to email their teachers and peers for assistance, even over the weekend or when they are home sick. With online collaboration tools every student has a voice in the learning community and is able to contribute to discussions and group assignments.
- **Core subjects-** *Project Red* found that 1:1 programs that incorporate core curriculum on technology every week have the most success. They recommend technology be integrated into core curriculum on a weekly basis or even more frequently. With the use of a learning management system, ongoing collaboration, and professional development, 1:1 teachers are delivering core curriculum on iPads on a **daily basis**. All sixth and seventh grade teachers, including world languages, related arts, and student support staff are using iPads in meaningful ways when delivering curriculum, assessing work, and providing students opportunities to collaborate, demonstrate understanding, and communicate with their peers and teachers.
- **Online formative assessment-** *Project Red* also recommends 1:1 programs implement online formative assessments. With tools such as *Google Forms, Nearpod, Socrative* and the district's learning management system, students are participating in online formative assessments. Teachers and students are able to receive quick feedback from these tests. Teachers are then able to use the results of these assessments to differentiate instruction for all learners. Online extensions are provided for students that demonstrate understanding of concepts while further instruction and resources are provided to those students who may need additional assistance. *Beyond Project Red* recommendations, the district is using online summative assessments with PARCC and Performance Series testing.

All of these *Project Red* recommendations are being implemented for current and future 1:1 staff. These recommendations have been woven into the operation and structure of the middle school and junior high programs. As indicated above, District 39 has exceeded many of the *Project Red* recommendations by providing daily core instruction and formative and summative online assessments. District 39 also developed many new programs to support the 1:1 learning initiative. These programs include the iGuru Student Expert and the #iPad Monday Parent Communication plan.

iGurus Student Experts

The iGuru Student Experts are a group of trained student leaders who support their peers and teachers in the daily operation and troubleshooting with 1:1 devices. During the iPad steering committee meetings last year, the vision for iGurus was developed. Goals for the program, a process for selecting students, and a recruiting video were created. The program is designed to develop student leadership positions in each sixth and seventh grade homeroom. The students had to apply for these positions and they are considered the iPad experts in their classes. It is their responsibility to assist their peers (and staff) to troubleshoot any technical issues they may have. Additionally, the iGurus act as testers for new apps and help students understand how and when to use them. The iGurus went through training at the beginning of the year and are receiving ongoing training during lunch and before and after school. The iGurus have also created presentations to share iPad information. Below are a few examples of the iGuru's projects.

- **Classroom presentations-** iGurus often create and present information to their homeroom class. These topics can range from sharing information from administrators and the technology teacher such as a reminder to complete a survey, to focusing on how to use new apps, and tips for using the iPad for completing schoolwork. This also includes tips for managing the workflow of downloading and submitting assignments, and how to use the learning management system efficiently.
- **Battery life study-** At Highcrest, the iGurus wanted to make sure that students had enough battery power, "juice," to make it through the day. They began their study with a survey to discover how students are using their devices. The iGurus found that turning off the Bluetooth and AirDrop features when they are not needed as well as turning down screen brightness can help extend battery life. They then came up with a list of recommendations to prolong their iPad battery life and presented this information to students during homeroom.
- **In-class troubleshooting-** At times students and staff may experience technical difficulties when working with their devices. When this happens they know they can turn to the iGurus who have been trained to help their peers and teachers troubleshoot a variety of issues that may occur in class. Teachers are impressed with the assistance offered by iGurus when using an app or even connecting the iPad to a SMART Board.

The iGuru program has been a successful and supportive addition to the 1:1 initiative. Sixth and seventh grade student leaders have expressed an interest to continue in the program and the teachers and staff are thankful for the iGuru services. As a result, the program will continue next year with the addition of eighth grade iGurus.

#iPad Monday Parent Communication

In an effort to provide ongoing communication to parents on all aspects of the 1:1 learning program, Dr. Palzet writes weekly iPad Monday emails and Facebook postings. These emails go to all 1:1 learning parents and all middle school and junior high staff. The Facebook postings are available to all subscribers of the school page. All messages are archived on the district's 1:1 learning website. To help guide the topics, Dr. Palzet seeks input from administrators and staff, responds to parent feedback and concerns, shares program benefits, and communicates lessons learned throughout the year. Some examples of weekly topics include:

- How teachers manage distractions in 1:1 classrooms
- Tips for iPad usage over winter break
- Schoology features and the importance of parents logging in on a regular basis
- Explanation of the iGuru program
- Random student iPad checks at school
- Creating structures and guidelines for student iPad use at home
- Printing from an iPad and remembering hard copies is still a choice
- "Anytime Anywhere Learning" and setting limits at home
- AppleCare and optional iPad loss/theft insurance program
- Viewing grades on Schoology
- Technology Boot Camp reminder and sessions for 1:1 families

The parent feedback from the iPad Monday communication has been positive. When new questions or concerns are raised they are often addressed in follow-up emails. The district is able to send reminders and tips to parents to help insure they are informed of the 1:1 program and the resources and tips available to them.

Next Steps

In the spring iPad learning program surveys will be administered to parents, students, and staff and summarized for the School Board. In addition, plans for a summer iPad deployment day, scheduled for August 19th, will be discussed. On that day incoming sixth grade students will pick up their iPads, configure their accounts, learn about optional programs and support available to them, and sign the iPad User Agreement. In addition the recommendation to maintain iPad student fees at the current level will be addressed at the February School Finance committee and reflected in the February Student Fees report.

Recommended for presentation To the Board of Education



Raymond E. Lechner, Ph.D., Superintendent