Technology Vision Statement

Through creating a culture of effective use of technology, schools can propel student achievement. I envision a learning environment in which teachers are providing individualized instruction, where students are engaged, collaborating, and thinking critically, and students are gaining the skills needed to be successful beyond graduation. New technology is constantly being introduced, and schools need to ensure we are keeping up; we need to immerse students in in a technology-rich world in meaningful ways that will help them succeed in the world.

Teachers need to be provided with ample and sufficient professional development opportunities. A recent study by Kimberly Lawless and James Pellegrino, of the University of Illinois suggests that the increase in availability of technology tools in schools means that it's imperative for teachers to be sufficiently prepared to integrate technology, and that "educational improvement comes about through coherent instruction and assessment that supports high-quality student learning." This is only possible with adequate teacher training. As teachers acquire the knowledge and skills to integrate technology into their curriculum in a meaningful way, teachers will be providing individualized instruction, that addresses students' specific needs and learning styles.

The effective use of technology by all stakeholders is imperative in achieving our goals. According to the International Society for Technology Education (ISTE), effective technology integration can propel student achievement in a multitude of ways. Students will learn to collaborate, manage their own learning, gain confidence and feel supported, explore their creativity, be more highly engaged, show their thinking and understanding, and think critically. The effective *integration* of technology, rather than technology used in isolation, is critical. "It is not about using the app to create a product. It is about developing a culture that values critical thinking, explanation, revision and problem-solving. Technology nurtures the culture by allowing for revision, collaboration, explanation and an authentic audience." In order to create and sustain this culture, training will be necessary for all stakeholders.

Creating a culture of effective use of technology is integral to student success beyond graduation. Students must be able to think critically, collaborate, and understand and apply information in new and unique ways. It is the role of the school to nurture curiosity and create innovators, and provide classrooms where technology use is intentional and purposeful. In order to achieve this, *all* classrooms must be equipped with the necessary tools. All classrooms must have equal access to the technology and training that will help students succeed in the world. Access to technology has the power to transform learning experiences that can lead to equitable learning outcomes for all students.

We live in a world where technology is ever evolving, and becoming more pervasive in every aspect of our lives. Understanding and using these technologies meaningfully will be integral in our students' futures. It is our responsibility, as leaders, teachers, and parents, to prepare students for this. To ensure their success, we need to immerse students in high quality and

effective technologies used purposefully and intentionally. Every classroom needs to have access to the appropriate tools to help ensure equity. A line of open communication among all stakeholders is imperative, and parents must be informed of new pedagogical approaches. To create a culture of effective technology use, means ensuring that our students are gaining the skills necessary to excel in a constantly changing world.

References

Lawless, K. and Pellegrino, J. (2007). Professional Development in Integrating Technology Into Teaching and Learning: Knowns, Unknowns, and Ways to Pursue Better Questions and Answers. *Review of Educational Research*, 77(4), pp.575-614.

Patterson, B. (2017). *Strengthen school vision with technology*. [online] Iste.org. Available at: https://www.iste.org/explore/articleDetail?articleid=1043&category=Education-