

School Town of Munster
1 to 1 Technology Initiative 2011-12
Parent Informational Meeting Handout

Timeline/Chain of Events: When, who and how decisions were made:

Fall 2009

The Indiana Department of Education assigns subjects for textbook adoption based on a six year rotation schedule. Each school district reviews and revises curriculum, and then adopts materials and programs. In the fall of 2009, the School Town of Munster began its established process for Math Adoption with a district wide committee composed of teachers (representing all levels), administrators and parents/community members. Parent participation is advertised through the PTO Presidents meetings and the Educationally Speaking community newsletter. The committee begins by analyzing the district achievement data and research based instructional strategies, and coordinates these with the North Central Accreditation standards for effective instructional and assessment practices. Gaps and celebrations are noted.

Dec. 2009

Next, a vision, mission and belief statements for math were created to guide the curriculum development process. In order to review the new state standards and create the curriculums, district grade level meetings at the elementary level and entire department meetings at the secondary level were conducted. Every teacher who instructs that content area is involved in the curriculum development process. This phase is completed by the first semester.

Jan. 2010

Starting second semester, the committee attends the regional Textbook Caravan. Vendors and publishing companies from across the country display and present their textbooks or programs. Samples from these companies are then sent to each of the buildings. Just prior to conducting the district grade level and department meetings for teachers to review these materials and programs, the Indiana Department of Education informed districts to stop their process in March 2010 due to the fact that the new Indiana 2009 Math Standards were going to be replaced by the newly created National Common Core Standards. All of the work that was done during the 2009-10 school year would need to be redone during the 2010-11 school year. In addition, all of the vendors would need to resubmit their products to the department of education for approval again to verify that the content is aligned to the National Common Core Standards. That list was not published for districts until March of 2011. In the meantime, teachers met again to create curriculums addressing the Common Core. The newly published list contained programs that were not on it the year before. As a result, the district invited those vendors to come and present to our teachers.

In addition to Math, the 2010-11 school year was also a Science Adoption year. That meant that two district committees were working simultaneously on two different content areas using

the established district process. After the science committee established the district vision, mission and beliefs about science they wanted to visit the new Charter School: The Science and Technology Academy of Hammond established by Dr. Bob Rivers from Purdue Calumet. The purpose of the visit was to view their instructional practices. This was the first school visited where we saw student laptops implemented.

Both the math and science committees considered student laptops when the teachers felt that the best K-8 Science Program and the best middle school math program to adopt was a complete digital multimedia approach to instruction. Those selections were not finalized until the third week of May 2011. The high school science and math programs also had dynamic technology components incorporated into their programs which targeted instructional strategies and student activities. The integration of technology will result in an engaging multimedia approach in very important content areas for students. These are the subject areas where the future job market is heading. Due to the exciting motivating nature of these programs, we anticipate more students becoming interested in these fields of study at higher levels.

District representatives, including central office administration, building principals, technology staff and a teacher representative also visited two other school districts and communicated with others to gain an understanding of the 1 to 1 laptop initiative from many perspectives. Many hours have been spent planning and organizing. The decision was driven by the teachers' choice to put students first and take their instruction to the next level. Included in this decision, was the desire to assist parents with homework. The middle school and high school math programs have a homework assistance component. Parents have voiced this concern to us all year long. This is not an initiative to just put textbooks on computers. That would be the lowest level of usage. The intent is to use this multimedia process for teaching and learning 24/7 and to prepare students for a very competitive college and career readiness. This curriculum/technology initiative followed the adoption process that has been established in Munster for many years. Once administrative recommendations are made, they are submitted to the board for approval.

Other Important Facts:

Even though this curriculum/technology initiative initially addresses math and science, the impact for all subjects and assessment practices will be tremendous.

Diagnostic and ISTEP Assessments

All grade 3-8 students participate in quarterly diagnostic assessments in Language Arts, Math, Science and Social Studies which are web based assessments. These assessments have taken over the limited number of computer labs in the buildings which equates to students not being able to use the labs for three months out of the school year. This past year all grade 5 and 8 students were required by the Indiana Department of Education to take ISTEP on a computer. The requirement for everyone to take it on line will be fast approaching. The End of Year Course Assessments (ECA) for the high school required by the Indiana Department of Education

is an on line assessment also. Currently, The School Town of Munster does not have enough labs to accommodate this process. The 1 to 1 initiative will solve these problems.

Information Applications

Textbooks are limited in their ability to provide in depth information and provide the opportunities for real life real time experiences in the classroom. The English teachers will have the opportunity to use daily technology integrated writing and presentation assignments. Previously they had to wait for available time in a lab which could take weeks. It could take significant time to complete one assignment. In Social Studies, teachers can access current events and in-depth research connected to their content. Research and presentation skills can be utilized on a daily basis.

Technology Grants

Districts with high levels of free and reduced lunch populations receive millions of dollars in technology funded grants from the Indiana Department of Education. Munster does not qualify for these due to economic reasons. Recently, The School Town of Munster applied for the only competitive grant opportunity offered by the Indiana Department of Education which was not based on free and reduced numbers. The \$200,000.00 grant award would have helped tremendously. There were 120 applicants and only 20 awards. We did not receive the award due to three deficiencies. We are not using digital instructional programs, our infrastructure is not where it needs to be and we are not competitive in our integration of technology (this is due to an insufficient amount of technology available in the School Town of Munster presently). The 1 to 1 initiative will address these problems.

We believe that this curriculum/technology initiative will not only catch The School Town of Munster up with districts ahead of us, but it will make us a leader and model for others.

Key Points on Finances Relative to the Computer 1 to 1 Initiative

A. Computer Costs to Students

1. Beginning with the 2010-11 school year, the cost of an individual student computer is classified as a textbook by the Indiana Department of Education.
 - This allows School Town of Munster (STM) to charge the computer cost as a textbook fee (computer textbook fee). With any book rental, up to 25% of the cost could be charged to the student for that school year.
 - Based upon community input and parent phone calls, it appears that parents do not wish to own the specific computer at the end of a lease program. Therefore, to accommodate those desires, STM will extend the period of use for each computer to five years. This would mean that since students are not going to own the computer after four years, the computer textbook fee portion per student can be reduced to \$150.00 per year from the \$250.00 lease rental per year fee previously proposed.

The school district will utilize Capital Project Funds to make up the difference. Expenditures can be made from this fund so long as the school district maintains ownership of the computer.

2. In order to further limit the amount that a household will have to pay out for computer textbook rental fees in a year the Administration proposes the following:

- According to Indiana Code, there will be no charge for computer textbook rental fees for students qualifying for free/reduced lunch.
- \$150.00 computer textbook rental fee for the first computer in a family
- \$150.00 for the second computer in the family
- \$50.00 each for the third and fourth computers in a family
- Maximum contribution of \$400.00 per family per year to accommodate families with more than four students who require computers
- These options are now available since students are not required to purchase the computer and the payback period for the STM will be increased to five years.
- All other textbook fees remain in force.
- There will be fundraising opportunities throughout the year to offset the computer textbook fee

3. What about parents who would like to own the computer?

- STM will make it possible for parents/students to purchase the computer upon graduation or after the five year use time. This can be accomplished by taking the \$1,000.00 purchase price and subtracting computer textbook fees made to pay for each computer use. For example, a student who pays \$150.00 for five years of computer textbook rental fees could purchase the computer for \$250.00 after the five year period. A similar calculation will be used for computers purchased after one, two, three or four years of computer textbook rental fees.

B. Computer Selection and Cost

- Dell Computers were selected due to the excellent service, reliability and support the STM has had with them.
- The model selected is the Dell Latitude E5420 with custom modifications. Currently this model retails for \$1,850.00 with a 9-cell battery and a four year warranty which includes accident coverage. An educator discount makes this model available for \$1,400.00 - \$1,500.00.

- STM is able to purchase this computer for \$1,000.00, paid over a 5 year period.
- These computers were purchased through the “Quantity Purchase Agreement” or QPA. The QPA was set up by the State of Indiana to allow the State to bid out equipment costs in order to save Governmental Institutions (like STM) on the purchase of computers and other equipment. In effect, the State secured the bids and STM took advantage of the buying power that Statewide bids allow. This computer purchase satisfies all State bidding requirements.

C. Licensing and Security Issues

- The licensing to run the software programs for STM curriculum is based on the number of computers utilized. That is, each individual computer must be covered under a license.
- Licenses issued to STM cannot arbitrarily be provided to households and other entities in our community. These licenses are STM specific.
- Security issues are a high priority, since the school district does not want to take the risk of bringing an infected computer into our system. The likelihood of an infected computer getting into our system greatly increases when STM loses control of which computers are allowed to operate in our network. Likewise, STM wants to prevent unacceptable usage activities on the computers in violation of our “Acceptable Use Policy”. STM computers have software which blocks inappropriate sites.

D. What About Lost, Stolen and Damaged Computers?

- The STM, at district cost, will purchase insurance coverage for each computer for both on premise and off premise utilization.
- This coverage will include tracking software for the computer and for the computer hard drive. This software will locate the device if it is lost or stolen.
- Anyone attempting to steal the computer or the hard drive may be subject to prosecution.
- Anyone tampering with computer hardware may be subject to prosecution.

Professional Development –One to One Computing

The School Town of Munster has been using the Windows platform for years. Unlike other districts that have opted to switch to another platform when adopting a one to one computer initiative, teachers and students will not have to learn new applications; this has been both expensive and time consuming for these districts. STM teachers and students know and use Microsoft Office.

Rose-Hulman will be working with STM's technology mentor to provide ongoing professional development for the teachers and support for both teachers and students at no cost to the district. There are four workshops with 71 teachers signed up for summer technology workshops on run by Rose-Hulman on July 27th, August 8th, August 9th, and August 10th.

Rose-Hulman is partnering with us on professional development as part of our computer initiative, specifically Moodle. Moodle is classroom management software similar to programs used at the college level. It enables interaction between teachers and students. Students can turn homework in online, participate in forum discussions, and download or view materials from the teacher. We currently have 75 Moodle courses with 231 registered users. This summer's workshops will include several Moodle courses, Interactive Whiteboards, and One to One Computing.

STM has had a firm commitment to the integration of technology into the classroom. The following is a list of summer technology workshops held for teachers.

Professional Development- Summer Technology Workshops

- Research and the Internet for Elementary Teachers
- Research and Writing for the Secondary Level
- Excel Spreadsheets in the Classroom/Excel in the Math and Science Classroom
- Front Page/Web Page Design
- PowerPoint/Advanced PowerPoint/ Students Creating PowerPoints
- Open Source Software/Web 2.0
- Digital Tools: From Document Cameras to Flip Cameras and Everything In Between
- Scope and Sequence of Technology Skills at the Elementary Level
- United Streaming in the Classroom/Learn 360
- Web Quests
- Podcasts/Audacity
- Microsoft Windows Moviemaker
- Publisher in the Classroom/Publisher Projects
- Digital Media in the Classroom
- Smart Boards in the Classroom/Interactive White Boards/Promethean/ActivInspire: Beginning and Advanced/Creating Promethean Flip Charts for the Classroom

- Technology and the 6+1 Traits of Writing
- Moodle for Beginners
- Moodle for Intermediate Users
- Advanced Moodle
- 21st Century Tools
- Thinkfinity: Using the Website to Generate Lessons/The Best of the Web
- Power Teacher Grade book /Standards Based Grade book
- Technology Orientation for New Teachers
- Office 2010 and Windows