

Clymer Central School District Technology Plan



July 2018- June 2021

Clymer Central School District
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District Mission Statement

We will provide all students the opportunity to learn today so they may contribute to a better tomorrow.

Introduction

Clymer is a small, rural town located in the extreme southwest corner of New York State. Over half of the population of the residents within the Clymer Central School District is Amish. Since the area is rural, agriculture is the main industry. Clymer Central School District serves a student population of approximately 450 students in one PK-12 building. Over 40% of Clymer's students qualify for the Federal Free and Lunch program. 96% of Clymer students are Caucasian with the remaining 4% made up of Asian, Hispanic, Pacific Islander and African American origin.

Clymer's district administrative staff consists of a Superintendent, Shared School Business Executive, and a Director of Technology. Building level administrative staff include a Building Principal and a Dean of Students. Clymer Central School employs a total of 65 instructional staff, which includes teachers, teacher assistants and aides, two school counselors and a shared School Psychologist. All Clymer students are eligible to ride district transportation. Clymer also maintains its own cafeteria program.

The Clymer Central School District, striving to provide the best educational climate for its students, believes that instructional technology is a cornerstone of an effective school that meets the needs of the students for the future. Technology is not only a product of our culture; it also shapes the culture that created it. Studies have shown that technology makes instruction more student-centered, encourages cooperative learning and stimulates increased student/teacher interaction. The majority of classrooms at Clymer are equipped with current technology, including projectors, interactive whiteboards, and interactive flat panel displays. Currently, Clymer has a 1:1 iPad and Chromebook initiative for grades K-12. Administration, teachers and students are utilizing computer workstations in all areas of the building. Clymer also participates in Distance Learning, including hosting courses, as well as receiving them.

It is simply not feasible for teachers to know or teach everything a student needs to know to succeed in life. We must teach an information-based inquiry process which meets the demands of this new age. This is a new challenge for the world's most important profession. To this end, we believe that technology exists as a very powerful, essential tool in the education process for both students and staff. Technology is not a separate curriculum, but an appropriate part of every curriculum at every level of instruction. In order to make this a reality, Clymer staff is very active in technology professional development of all types. The majority of this training is provided through CSLO/Model Schools from Erie 1 BOCES.

This plan will provide the blueprint for incorporating instructional technology into the overall district educational plan.

Acknowledgments/Stakeholders

This plan and the vision needed to create a viable technology blueprint for Clymer Central School District is the product of the Clymer Central School District Comprehensive District Education Plan Committee members. The development of the current Tech Plan is a collaborative effort with the below members. These members build on a strong Tech Plan platform from the 2015-2018 planning document. The technology plan goals will be reviewed bi-annually by the CDEP. Goals that are not attained will be re-evaluated for relevance. If the goal is deemed valid, a plan of action will be created to ensure attainment. Goals that have been achieved will also be reviewed and appropriately expanded. The Board of Education will be briefed on the status of the Technology Plan and the District's technical status annually, at a mid-year meeting. The District's CDEP meetings will take place bi-monthly at the convenience of the members. The technology plan will be reviewed at the January and June meetings.

The CDEP Committee is comprised of the following:

Corey Markham: Building Principal

Lynne Bemis: Dean of Students

Stuart Strother: Director of Technology

Paul Smardz: District Librarian

Cheryl Burk: HS Art Teacher

Velvet Persons: Grade 1 Teacher

Kathy Whalen: Grade 1 Teacher

Laura Obrist: EL Art Teacher

Lisa Perry: Business Teacher

Stacey Singer: HS Math

Vision & Goals

District Technology Vision Statement

Clymer Central School is committed to offering students, faculty, staff and community members the opportunity and means to learn, explore, develop and utilize the various technologies available within the district. CCS will provide its students with the technological tools and knowledge base necessary to develop skills they will use throughout their futures by providing direct instruction and independent educational activities.

Goals for Technology Use:

1. Continue to have all Students and Teachers maintain access to a mobile device for our 1:1 program. Be it an iPad, Chromebook, or Windows Laptops.
2. Continue the exploration of new technologies remaining current and planning for the future. Make sure our students and teachers have technology skills that will match post-secondary education environments.
3. Continue dedicated funding for the planning, purchase, installation, maintenance, evaluation and upgrading of all district technological tools.

I. Curriculum

A. Curriculum Integration

Goals & Strategies:

1. In the elementary grades, ELA, Math & Response to Intervention instruction (RTI), teachers will continue to use technology products such as Waterford Early Learning, IXL, i-Ready Instructional Lessons, Raz-kids, Brain-Pop, and the iPad and Chromebook 1:1 program to individualize and adapt instruction for students. At the secondary level, teachers will be encouraged to continue to research and find new ways to individualize and adapt instruction for students. Tools they could use include content specific iPad apps, i-Ready Instructional Lessons, Showbie and other educational websites.
2. Teachers will be provided the opportunity to continue to implement instructional technology aligned to the New York State Common Core Learning Standards into their lessons. We will support the embedding of Technology and technology literacy within the curriculum.
3. Clymer will continue our Distance Learning commitment. We will work to provide our students opportunities to network with teachers and students across the state. We hope to increase the number of college credits available to the high school students via Distance Learning. We will increase virtual field trips via Distance Learning and our Polycom unit.
4. Offer faculty and staff targeted professional development around New York State Common Core Learning Standards and opportunities for technology integration.

Identification & Promotion:

We will continue to use CSLO through Erie 1 BOCES and the Erie 2 Model Schools service, technology conferences and consortiums, and technology publications to help identify new strategies for increasing our student's technology literacy. As new instructional technology resources emerge, they will be presented to faculty via staff meetings, in-service days or email.

B. Student Achievement

Teachers will be consistently encouraged to include technology in their curriculum work. Because technology is essential in satisfying New York State Common Core Learning Standards, it is necessary to integrate technology and the available tools in all curriculum areas.

We will integrate the ISTE standards for students, teachers and administrators developed by

the International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE). The ISTE web site is <http://www.iste.org>

By incorporating the ISTE standards and the ISTE performance indicators for student learning, we will start bridging the curriculum – technology gap. Teachers will be encouraged to incorporate the following ISTE standards for technology literate students.

The following are the general ISTE standards and the ways they are being implemented:

1. Creativity and Innovation: Students demonstrate creative thinking, construct knowledge and develop innovative products and processes using technology. Students create projects in various subjects using iPads and the Book Creator and iMovie apps. The end project demonstrates their knowledge about a particular subject.

2. Communication and Collaboration: Students use digital media and environment to communicate and work collaboratively, including at a distance, to support individual learning and contribute to the learning of others. Teachers will offer the use of online systems for communication and collaboration, such as Google Suite/Classroom and Showbie.

3. Research and Information Fluency: Students apply digital tools to gather, evaluate and use information. Students make use of Internet databases subscribed to by the district for research throughout all grades and content areas.

4. Critical Thinking, Problem Solving, and Decision Making: Students use critical thinking skills to plan and conduct research, manage projects, solve problems and make informed decisions using appropriate digital tools and resources.

5. Digital Citizenship: Students understand human, cultural, and societal issues related to technology and practice legal and ethical behavior. Internet Safety, plagiarism awareness, & cyber bullying are integrated into all content areas throughout all grade levels. Responsible Online behavior is promoted at all grade levels.

6. Technology Operations and Concepts: Students demonstrate a sound understanding of technology concepts, systems, and operations. Beginning in Kindergarten, students are introduced to: basic computer components and operations, keyboarding skills, iPad usage, troubleshooting and using online resources. In middle school, students progress to studying basic graphic design, spreadsheet and database design and analysis. At the high school level, students study advanced graphic design, digital photography and advanced video editing.

Action Plan

The success of curriculum integration will be assessed yearly in the following manners:

- Administrators will make note of technological integration during instructional observations
- Administrators and peer review of technology integration into teacher's curriculum.
- Teacher self evaluation as part as annual performance review
- We will use the above strategies to continuously evaluate our progress with an eye toward adjusting our vision.

C. Technology Delivery

We will work to increase our distance learning courses and offerings.

We will also continue to work with teachers in our building to schedule video conferences with other districts or organizations to enhance our students' view of the world. We will provide a list of virtual field trips to teachers to help them know what is available to them.

We will continue to offer college courses to high school students through the use of our Distance Learning technology.

We also continue to promote and fund technology based learning through our 1:1 iPad and Chromebook initiatives.

D. Parental Communications & Community Relations

The technology plan will be uploaded to our school website. A hard copy will also be available at a community member's request. The website is maintained on a daily basis and includes upcoming events, news and other information. Staff members are continually working to include more items on the webpage that will help parents and community members. We will also continue to work to create a greater Clymer Central School presence on social media.

The district also offers a Parent & Student Portal through our student management system, PowerSchool. This portal assigns parents a username and password and they are able to login to see their children's schedules, progress reports, report cards, assignments, cafeteria account balance and attendance. Parents have found this system extremely accessible and easy to use.

Clymer also subscribes to School Messenger, which is a rapid calling system. We use this system to communicate with parents for emergency situations, such as school closings, as well as reminders of school events.

The district produces a community newsletter periodically throughout the year. Each newsletter is full of student activities and information about what the students are learning in their classrooms during the school day.

II: Professional Development Strategy

E. Professional Development

The Clymer Central School District believes that instructional technology resources can only be fully utilized by teachers that have competency in using the technology. With the current changes to the New York State Common Core standards, it has become increasingly difficult for teachers and administrators to incorporate the technology the new standards require without sufficient professional development.

Professional development is accomplished by at least 3 different avenues. In-house training sessions will be taught by coworkers or outside trainers, teachers will attend CSLO & Model Schools workshops throughout the year and the Director of Technology will provide just-in-time, one-on-one training that is designed for specific needs of teachers. Often, the just-in-time training may be a follow up to a more formal training session in which the teacher participated. Other trainings may be offered through various agencies if necessary. Teachers will be made aware of all opportunities for trainings through the Director of Technology, Director of Instruction and/or their building principals.

All levels of district users are targeted by the current training offered by the school district. Staff members are continually encouraged and supported to learn more about technology and how to better integrate it into their lessons.

CSLO (Common Set of Learning Objectives) Workshops

Participation in the CSLO Service through the WNYRIC (Western New York Regional Information Center) provides Clymer with four in-service days each year. Clymer has joined with a neighboring district in our area to share a staff development days to maximize the CSLO workshops. This sharing agreement can provide multiple workshops with varying topics and gives Clymer Central School up to 12 teacher-days of technology in-service. CSLO is instrumental in helping our teachers integrate technology into their curriculum through developing learning experiences. As part of the 3 day regional trainings offered by CSLO, teachers are required to collaborate with teachers from other districts.

Model Schools Workshops (Coser 566)

Clymer currently also participates in the Erie 2 Model Schools Coser. This service is designed to provide access and training to both hardware and software that support student learning. The Erie 2 IEST (Integrated Education Service Team) is able to design and implement customized trainings for teachers to utilize technology tools in their classrooms.

Clymer In-House Courses

The in-service courses may be applied towards the hours required for staff development. Some of the different courses offered include courses on PowerSchool, Google Suite, iReady, integrating iPads and Chromebooks 1:1 and Internet Use.

III: NYSED Initiatives Alignment

Clymer Central School uses technology in a variety of ways. First of all it is used to benchmark students in ELA and Math helping the teacher individualize and continually improve instruction. It is also used for lessons that help students work at their own level moving them up levels as they progress. Secondly, teachers are able to use programs to enrich their existing curriculum through apps and deeper research. Finally, students are able to vary their report production through learning different programs and ways to present information through the use of technology.

Students with disabilities are able to use different ways of producing work. Keyboards help for those that find it difficult to write. The district also provides them with the ability to speak what they want to say which is then written down. The technology that we have available also allows students to listen to passages when reading and/or comprehension is an issue.