

Smithfield Technology Plan Addendum for 2015-2016

Introduction

The Smithfield Public Schools entered into three major educational technology initiatives in the 2014-15 school year; opening staff and student BYOD access to the school wireless networks, providing all students from grades 3 to 12 with Google Apps for Education accounts, and starting the first of a three year 1:1 Chromebook program with students in the 3rd, 6th and 9th grades.

The district will be supporting and expanding all of these initiatives into the 2015-16 school year, adding 1:1 Chromebooks for the incoming 3rd, 6th and 9th graders to the over 600 Chromebooks that were distributed to 3rd, 6th and 9th grade students and staff in 2014-15. This will require extending professional development and resources for students and staff that will be working with Chromebooks for the first time.

Mission and Vision

The mission of the Smithfield Public Schools is to provide an adaptive and challenging learning environment that meets the needs of students in an emerging global community, and prepares them for excellence in education and the workplace, while cultivating integrity, responsibility, digital citizenship and a sustained passion for continued learning.

Success in a 21st century classroom requires the use and integration of a variety of technology tools by both students and staff. Students are expected to use technology to create and publish their work, as well as collaborate and communicate with others. In order for this to occur, it is the responsibility of the Smithfield Public Schools to provide students with tools that facilitate learning anywhere and anytime and ensure equitable access for all students. All educational technology initiatives must be “driven by instruction and powered by technology.” Providing students with Google Apps for Education accounts and a Chromebook to use at school and home is an initiative that is will move the district toward this vision for the 21st century classroom.

Goals

To make certain that Smithfield students are prepared for success in school, post-secondary education, career, and life in a globally connected society, it is crucial that the goals of the district’s Google Apps for Education and 1:1 Chromebook initiatives are consistent with state and national standards, such as the National Educational Technology Standards for Students (ISTE Standards S), Next Generation Science Standards, and the Common Core State Standards. Furthermore, it is important that the goals of these initiatives are connected to the Smithfield Public Schools Strategic Plan.

As part of the Google Apps for Education and 1:1 Chromebook initiatives, students will:

- Participate in a variety of opportunities to demonstrate the relevance and interconnectedness of their knowledge and skills.
- Use technology tools to communicate, collaborate, create and publish their work.
- Engage in increasingly personalized and student-centered learning environments.
- Demonstrate and model the attitudes and attributes of a responsible digital and global citizen.

Conditions for Success

- Adequate internal network bandwidth, both wireless and wired
 - At least 802.11n capable wireless access points
 - At least 1Gbps LAN wired connections
 - At least 10Gbps fiber LAN backbone connections
- Adequate bandwidth of transport lines/wide area network connections
 - At least 500Mbps transport connections or fiber optic WAN connections
- Adequate internet bandwidth
 - At least 500Mbps of aggregate internet bandwidth for the district; 750Mbps to 1Gbps
- Flexible and regular professional development for teachers and staff
 - Small, frequent training and support sessions using Common Planning Time
 - Training during faculty meetings to supplement limited Common Planning Time at the elementary schools
 - Teachers inviting other teachers into their classrooms to observe/co-teach
 - Online clearinghouse of resources and support materials
 - Online collaborative Communities (e.g. Google+, Twitter)
 - Differentiated learning opportunities for staff in small group settings (e.g. Office Hours)
- Reliable and dependable tools for the use of students and staff
 - Hapara Teacher Dashboard
- Clear and consistent policies and procedures

Evaluation of Success

- Highlighting projects and work that students have produced using the technology tools.
- Some short surveys of students and staff at strategic parts of the school year to find out about changes in engagement and classroom activities.