

Over the Fence



SEPTEMBER 2012 | DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

Superintendent Dr. David Richards | David.Richards@FraserK12.org

SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

Where Learning Drives Innovation.



This school year promises to be one of the most exciting, educationally, in the history of Fraser Public Schools as we continue our efforts to redesign our learning environments to better meet the needs of

today's students. Though we have enjoyed a rich tradition of providing our students with a high quality education, as a community, a Board of Education, and staff, we realize that public schools are facing an unprecedented season of change.

Our drive in Fraser to redesign our School District comes from a realization that we must provide our students with an educational experience that will prepare them to be successful in today's college and work environment. Our District is dedicated to equipping our students with the skills they need to be successful both in and out of the classroom.

This special edition of "Over the Fence" will provide you with an overview of our efforts to strategically transform our classrooms and school campuses to support a personalized

learning environment for every student. Though you will recognize the blending of our traditional offerings with the infusion of new digital offerings, our focus is not on the technology. Rather, we have a laser focus on student learning and increasing student achievement.

As a result of the 2011 bond issue, our students will have the opportunity to learn in classrooms that allow one-to-one access to iPads to support student learning for each child. Teachers will be able to leverage technology at the point of instruction rather than only having access to computers during the assigned computer lab time. Our teachers will be able to customize each child's educational plan to better meet the student's learning needs in each content area. **Ultimately, learning will be a personalized experience for every student in Fraser Public Schools.**

"If we teach today's students as we did yesterday's, we are robbing them of tomorrow."

JOHN DEWEY



"We cannot always build the future for our youth, but we can build our youth for the future."

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT

As someone who has spent the past 20 years in education, it is exciting to see the improvements we are making through the support of our community and the commitment of our staff. Our students will have learning opportunities that very few students enjoy on daily basis throughout the United States. I encourage parents to continue reading this special edition and recognize the vital role you play in your child's education during these exciting times.

With Fraser Pride,
Dr. Richards

"It is important to remember that educational software, like textbooks, is only one tool in the learning process. Neither can be a substitute for well-trained teachers, leadership, and parental involvement."

KEITH KRUEGER, CEO OF CoSN

[CLICK HERE TO VIEW "WHERE LEARNING DRIVES INNOVATION" VIDEO.](#)

HOW WE GOT HERE

THE BOND ISSUE

Working together as a team, Fraser staff, parents and community members were a catalyst for the bond issue that was passed in 2011. The bond includes necessary construction and technology related items to help in our efforts to redesign our learning environments to meet the needs of today's learners.

START

BOND INSTRUCTIONAL TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

A special committee comprised of teachers from all grade levels and various disciplines, building administrators, central office administrators, and instructional technology consultants met for an entire year to redesign the District's learning environment, establish a curriculum, and select the best instructional technology tool for students and staff. Once the redesign was in place, the iPad was determined as the instructional tool for students and the Macintosh platform for staff.

ONLINE PRESENCE

All District teachers have a web presence and many provide online access to homework assignments, classroom updates, and instructional tools to help students and parents stay connected to their learning. Many teachers, predominately at the high school level, are using BlackBoard as a Learning Management System for online, blended, flipped and traditional access to class content. PowerSchool provides instant access for parents and students to view their grades, assignments and attendance records. School Messenger provides instant communication from the District to parents via email, phone call or text message. Each building website has been streamlined for consistency for higher efficiency among parents.

CONNECTIVITY

Upgrades and adjustments made by the District's Technology Department resulted in a collaborative environment that blends well with the District's redesigned learning environment. The District's network infrastructure was redesigned within each building to increase connectivity for students and staff to network resources and the Internet. Live@Edu Microsoft Cloud Services were integrated to provide students and staff with anytime, anywhere access to email, documents and Microsoft web applications including Word, PowerPoint, Excel and OneNote. Filtered wireless Internet access was implemented District-wide to ensure connectivity for students, staff, parents and community members visiting any FPS campus. The adjustments made during the District's redesign allow connectivity anytime, anywhere, rather than being tied to a desk.

1:1 ENVIRONMENT

A new 21st Century Literacy curriculum will provide students with skills necessary for their success as a digital citizen. Every student enrolled in Fraser Public Schools will have access to an iPad in the 2012-13 school year. iPads will be used as an instructional device for students in addition to their current learning environment which includes an interactive Promethean board, student response systems, document cameras, Apple TV, and other learning tools. Instructional support for new technology has been put in place to ensure teachers have access to modeling and coaching. Support will be available for both students and staff through the 21st Century Literacy teachers, Media Support Technicians, and students assisting in the Student Genius Bar. The media center in each building will act as the center of support for all buildings, which will include instructional and technical support.

Meet the 21st Century Learner

In today's classroom, students have very diverse backgrounds, different achievement levels, and a variety of learning styles. Fraser teachers are working to blend traditional methods and new innovative approaches to teach to the demands of the 21st century. Students at Fraser Public Schools are being taught the skills that are needed today to be college and career ready.

Meet the 21st Century Classroom

Today's classrooms must meet the needs of the diverse group of students who come to our schools, and Fraser is working hard to redefine the learning environment in order to meet the needs of all students through the best use and leveraging of technology. In a Fraser 21st century classroom, teachers will use mobile devices to create flexible curriculum that meets the needs of a wide range of students including gifted students, struggling

students, students for whom English is a second language, disadvantaged students, disengaged students, in short, all of the students who comprise today's classrooms.

Staff is being trained in an instructional framework called Universal Design for Learning or UDL. UDL is a research-based approach to teaching, learning and assessment that draws on brain research and new media technologies

to respond to individual learner differences and interests. By efficiently and effectively differentiating instruction with technology, ALL students can successfully complete and meet the rigorous Common Core State Standards and be College and Career Ready. These are exciting times, and our students will benefit from the ability to take ownership and personalize their learning to meet the challenges of a 21st century global world.

PARENT INFORMATION

We understand that as a parent, you may have some questions regarding the iPad and the role it will play as a new instructional tool in your child's education. We encourage you to be interested, stay involved, and lend your support to your child through this exciting transition. We hope that this newsletter will provide you with the information you need to start the school year feeling both excited and informed!

THE BACKGROUND

Thanks to the support of our community and passing of the bond in 2011, Fraser Public Schools has been able to update our instructional technology. We are excited to begin integrating this technology across all our grades and into our curriculum throughout the 2012-13 school year.

THE NEW TOOL

The iPad has emerged as one of the leading tools in education with over 10,000 educational applications available. After a great deal of research and thoughtful consideration, our District believes that this technology is the best tool to assist our students in developing and leveraging the skills and knowledge they need to be successful in the 21st century.

VISIT OUR FAQ

Do you have a question regarding the iPad deployment process? Please **click here** to read through some frequently asked questions on our website.

REVIEW OUR POLICIES

Please **click here** to view the policies that guide the implementation of this project into our schools.

ATTEND PARENT MEETINGS

We invite you to attend an optional parent meeting on Wednesday, August 29 at 7:30 p.m. in the Fraser High School Auditorium to answer your questions and provide an overview of how this new instructional tool will be used in the classroom. In addition, individual buildings will be scheduling their own meetings throughout the course of the iPad deployment process.

PARENT RESOURCES

Familiarize yourself with the iPad and the some of the endless educational opportunities available to your child. Click here to visit myFPS on the District's webpage to view popular iPad apps or go to www.ipadbootcampforparents.com to learn more about the iPad.

STILL HAVE UNANSWERED QUESTIONS?

Contact your building's principal or 21st Century Literacy teacher. You may also send questions by email to the District's Community Relations Coordinator at Nicole Malak at Nicole.Malak@Fraserk12.org.

iPAD PILOT: Student Tested and Approved

To prepare for the iPad rollouts, FHS English teacher Ms. Mary Thompson was one of several teachers to participate in an iPad Pilot program with her students at the end of the 2011-12 school year. Read the following Q&A to see how the iPad Pilot resulted in a positive experience for both Ms. Thompson and her students!

Q: What classes of yours participated in the pilot?

A: I had my Advanced Placement Literature class participate in this pilot because they are very self-motivated and driven.

Q: How long did your pilot run?

A: It ran for two weeks after the AP test and through their final day at FHS.

Q: If someone would have visited your classroom before the iPad Pilot started, what would they have witnessed?

A: In essence, they would have seen much more direction from me. Because AP Lit is a college level class and I have to get the students ready for the AP test, my presence pre-iPad was very much one of knowledge holder. I had been a literature major, had gone to the AP training classes, and had written literary criticism. My classroom is very interactive; I don't lecture more than twice a semester and I believe that students learn best when they play. Still, though, they were more stationary and assumed a role of receiver.

**Q: If someone would have visited your classroom during the iPad Pilot, what would they have witnessed?**

A: They might have initially thought I had lost my mind. Students were playing with garage band, taking pictures with photo booth, shooting videos, and trying to record videos from my desktop computer. In the end, though, this was arguably one of the most successful assignments I gave them. I think my approach to grading this helped: because it was a pilot and I was learning as much from it as they were, I had promised them they would receive an A as long as they gave me their best effort and I saw them truly employ technology in a clever way.

Q: What type of feedback did you receive from your students about the pilot?

A: The feedback varied depending upon the day and class giving the feedback. When they had to figure out new ways to make their assignment a success, they started to participate in authentic problem solving and collaboration. All in all, I think most of the students had a positive experience.

STAY CONNECTED



Become a fan of Fraser Public Schools on Facebook and Twitter to keep up with the latest news and updates.



Don't forget to check out the District's website for a calendar of events at:

www.Fraser.k12.mi.us

Instructional Technology Support

As our District moves forward with our redesign efforts, our needs are also changing with regards to instructional technology support for our staff and students. Universal Design for Learning (UDL) provides the foundation for teaching and learning to utilize tools such as BYOD (bring your own device), mobile devices, Web 2.0 tools and many other technologies within the classroom. These technologies need continual support and integration into the curriculum as the environment is ever changing. Our goal is to ensure that our staff has the support they need to ensure success for our students.

The media center will be the first level support resource in every building. District staff will provide overflow first level support and all second and third level support needs as well as District network support.

DISTRICT TECHNOLOGY SUPPORT STAFF:

- Kris Young**, Director of Educational Technology and Information Systems
- Kelly McCarty**, Network Engineer
- Bob Balch**, District Support Technician
- Dan Glynn**, District Support Technician
- Karen Hartman-Burcar**, District Help Desk

BUILDING TECHNOLOGY SUPPORT STAFF:

- Lynne Score**, RMS Technology Support Assistant
- Cortnie Talbot**, FHS Technology Support Assistant
- Michael Glesen**, FHS Technology Support Assistant

MEDIA CENTER SUPORT STAFF:

- Darlene Hall**, Twain Media Technology Assistant
- Lenore Kuras**, Eisenhower Media Technology Assistant
- Cheryl Kane**, Emerson Media Technology Assistant
- Geraldine Ratliff**, Salk Media Technology Assistant
- Teresa Maiorano**, Edison Media Technology Assistant
- Dorothy Cichocki**, Disney Media Technology Assistant
- Richards Media Technology Support
- FHS Media Technology Support
- Lori Wetzel**, K-8 Media Specialist
- Regina Cable**, 9-12 Media Specialist

The Student Genius Bar

The Student Genius Bar concept will allow our students who excel at technology to help other students and staff within their building. A curriculum will be built and based upon this model, which will be housed in the media center, and the 21st Century Literacy teacher will oversee the curriculum and The Student Genius Bar. Students will become an essential part of the support team and will gain important life skills at an early age. This curriculum is in the infancy stages and once defined, will be integrated.



21st Century Literacy Teachers

The 21st Century Literacy course is a new curriculum offered to FPS students. For the 21st century learner, literacy extends beyond the functional skills of reading, writing, speaking, and listening to include visual, media and information literacies. The individual in this position will teach sections of 21st Century Literacy to students, including The Student Genius Bar. This position will also be a leader in the building to assist teaching staff to better understand the technology tools available to them and how those tools can be integrated into the curriculum. These teachers will deliver an information literacy curriculum that has been designed to support the Michigan grade level content expectations (GLCE's) and National and Michigan Educational Technology Standards (NETS/METS) for students. The 21st Century Literacy teacher will also be available to work with teachers and students in a classroom setting to ensure that

staff members reach the necessary comfort level to implement the new technology themselves. This position will research and expose teachers to new technologies (Web 2.0, Applications, etc.) as they become available.

Meet the Team!

- ELEMENTARY BUILDINGS**
Renee Biegas, Casey Petz, Christina Sorrow, Norm Lentine, Kelly Zombo, and Catherine Amicucci
- RICHARDS MIDDLE SCHOOL**
Wendy Murray
- FRASER HIGH SCHOOL**
Dr. Mary Saffron, Charlene Barla, and Chris Stanley.

Device Deployment & Trainings for Teachers



Teachers received MacBook Pro laptops and iPads at the end of the of the 2011-12 school year and were provided basic training by the District. By receiving their devices prior to the start of the school year, staff has been able to adjust their instruction and curriculum to the new devices. In addition, they have had access to Apple in-store training and access to all District and MISD trainings. Apple trainers are working with the District to provide 16 days of professional development throughout the 2012-13 school year.

ipad deployment timeline

All Grade Levels

SEPTEMBER

21st Century Literacy teacher will support teachers and administrators with preparing for student rollout of iPads and integrating new teacher Macbook and iPads into all classrooms.

DK – 6th Grade: 21st Century Literacy teacher will have class sets of iPads for training and instruction of students during the 40 minute class period once a week.

7th – 12th Grade: 21st Century Literacy teacher will have class sets of iPads for training and instruction of students during silent reading, seminar, and in the media center.

Parent meetings will be held at individual buildings hosted by principals and 21st Century Literacy teachers.

DK-2 iPad Sets

OCTOBER

Classroom iPad deployment for grades DK-2. Each classroom will receive a set of iPads in their classrooms for use during the school day. Application deployment will occur with each teacher having a Sync Tray in their classroom and the ability to directly add applications to their classroom iPad set.

Grades 3-6 Student iPads

OCTOBER – NOVEMBER

iPad deployment for grades 3-6 will occur in each building's 21st Century Literacy classes. Application deployment will occur in the media center by grade level at specific times during the school year. Parent meetings will be held by individual buildings hosted by principals and 21st Century Literacy teachers.

Grades 7-8 Student iPads

NOVEMBER – DECEMBER

iPad deployment to grades 7-8 during silent reading with the 21st Century Literacy teacher. Application deployment will occur by individual student. Parent information packets and parent meetings will be scheduled at Richards Middle School.

Grades 9-12 Student iPads

JANUARY – FEBRUARY

iPad deployment by grade level during Seminar with the 21st Century Literacy teacher. Application deployment will occur by individual student. Parent information packets and parent meetings will be scheduled at the high school.

Please note: This is a tentative timeline. Parents will have the opportunity to have their child opt in to take the iPad home for Grades 3-12. If they choose to opt out, iPads will be available in the media center for daily checkout for in-school use.