

A Plan to Move Forward using Technology

A Presentation to the
Fremont Area Community Foundation

Presented By
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Vision

Placing iPads in the hands of our students is a bold move that represents the beginning of a fundamental shift in how we educate our children. This project is not only about raising test scores or improving grades, it is about a broad vision to move our students in an entirely new direction, away from the workbooks and scrap-paper we all grew up with and towards the technology that will allow our students to learn in a more dynamic and relevant way.

“Given the migration to modern media, the education establishment, schools, textbook publishers, government education agencies, policy makers, teachers, and parents, must consider how to deliver educational content using new media. Apparently, the print medium is becoming increasingly irrelevant to our children but is still the primary platform for educational content delivery. To engage our children, we must use their platform. And that requires major transformative actions and efforts.” Yong Zhao, “The Medium is the Message: Educating Generation M”

Review of the three main Project Goals

- The first goal of this project is to allow each third grade student the opportunity to use an iPad to access www.ixl.com and obtain the practice they need to master our consistently low scoring math skills as assessed by the Michigan Educational Assessment Program (MEAP).

In my most recent school year, 88% of my students scored 80% or better on the “weak meap” list which contained nineteen skills. My class spent a combined total of 953 hours on IXL, attempted 121,789 third grade problems and practiced 168 different skills.

- The second goal of the project is to use the iPad as a tool to create two digital media writing projects and to support learning as it relates to writing.
(poetry & essay)
- The third goal of the project is to use technology to participate in communication and collaboration activities.

Review of how to Evaluate Student Progress

- The first goal of this project is to allow each third grade student the opportunity to use an iPad to access www.ixl.com to obtain the practice they need to master our consistently low scoring math skills as assessed by the Michigan Educational Assessment Program (MEAP).

Progress towards this goal can be evaluated and measured by monitoring the reports generated by IXL. These reports provide a variety of useful data points that can be accessed by parents, students, teachers and administrators. Parents and students can log-on to their student account and see exactly what skills their student has mastered. Teachers can monitor their students' progress using a variety of reports and use that information to formulate the student's individualized learning plan. Administrators can use the reports available only to them to track individual student use and monitor teacher use as well. This goal will be considered met when the student has achieved an 80% or higher level of mastery on all the weak MEAP math skills as identified by the previous three years.

- The second goal of the project is to use the iPad as a tool to support learning as it relates to writing.

Since the standards chosen for this goal specifically mention the production and publishing of writing projects, students will be creating two digital writing projects. The first two projects will be related to poetry and essay. This goal will be considered met when the student has successfully completed two digital writing projects.

- The third goal is to use technology to participate in communication and collaboration activities. This goal's main purpose is to safely guide students to use communication tools to interact and share information with various audiences. This goal will be considered met when this student has successfully shared their two digital media project using two different methods. The first project may be share using email and the second project may be shared by posting the project to the classroom website. As the skill levels of the students and staff increase, both will be encouraged to use more advanced methods of sharing.

Conclusion

Technology is a tool, when you know how to use it, you can use it to make things, do things, and demonstrate your knowledge to others. This project seeks to not teach kids how to “do technology” just for the sake of knowing how to use a piece of equipment or software. Anyone can take a course and quickly learn how to use MSWord, iWeb or Pages, that’s easy. I want to give students the opportunity to use technology to enhance what we do in the classroom, make it easier for them to learn at their own level, and express their understanding of what they know. By following the plan I have presented and working tirelessly towards the three goals, I believe we will be well on our way to reaching the broader goal of bringing our students and teaching methods into the 21st century.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to further explain my plan. If you have any questions please feel free to contact me.

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