

TECHNOLOGY CHECKLIST

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Golden Hills School

Technology Available

Golden Hills Elementary School is a 4th and 5th grade school with twelve classrooms. Golden Hills Elementary is part of the Palermo School District which qualifies for added funding based on the low SES in the area. A list of technology resources available at the school can be found in Appendix A. The focus on technology opens fantastic opportunities for students and is consistent with recent calls for enhanced online learning in K12 settings (Pape & Wicks, 2009). While these students are in traditional classrooms, the technology in the school allows students to enjoy the best parts of traditional and online learning. The two district technology support technicians, Will Schnabel and John Smith, are conveniently located in an office behind the library at Golden Hills. I had the opportunity to interview my mentor teacher; Mrs. Johnson, as well as Will Schnabel and John Smith who each assisted me in better understanding the technology resources available at the school.

The school has complete coverage with Wireless N networking making Internet available throughout the entire complex. The network service is provided by Butte County Office of Education and is supported by Gabriel Dawson. There are at least nine computers in each classroom in addition to the instructor's computer at the school as well as two carts with twenty-four and twenty computers available to fifth grade and fourth grade classrooms respectively. The instructor's computer is equipped with a projector and a document camera to accommodate teaching. All of the computers are from Apple which provides a consistent experience for students and allows them to build skills as opposed to learning about different computer interfaces. There are four Turning Point packages each containing 32 clickers and a USB key that can be checked out for use in classrooms.

Palermo School District provides access to resources to assist teachers in making the best use of information technology as well. Access to the Internet-based service Brain Pop is available which provides teachers with many 3 – 5 second video segments that present high quality easily comprehensible training on math and science concepts. Also, Discovery Education is provided by the district which provides a wide range of Internet-based curricular resources.

My mentor teacher, Mrs. Johnson, uses monies made available for the classroom to make Scholastic News available for each of the students in the class. In addition to providing each student with a hard copy of the news each month, the scholastic news online service is available for use in the classroom making real-time news accessible. National Geographic for Kids is also made available to students through classroom funding providing yet another tool for learning in the classroom. Mrs. Johnson also uses personal resources to procure Instructor Magazine which helps to identify trends, strategies, lesson plans and other opportunities for learning that may be useful in the classroom.

Use of Technology

The impressive set of technology resources at the school are used constantly in the classrooms. These uses are consistent with the recent call for technology use in the classroom from the US Department of Education (Herbert, 2010)The overhead projector and document camera are used a large percentage of the time as they provide the ability to share materials with the entire class. Turning Point is used regularly as a pre-assessment tool to assess prior knowledge as well as an assessment tool. Turning Point is used in conjunction with PowerPoint to quiz students in either anonymous mode or with scores for each student being tracked. Student engagement is increased through the instantaneous feedback and tracking/recording student performance is made simple.

Imovies is available in used for video editing allowing students to develop films. Students are able to write and edit their own scripts, record movies and then edit the movies with transitions and effects to make an attractive presentation. Students are able to take digital cameras home where they can take a nearly unlimited collection of pictures. The following day the student selects their favorite 30 pictures and creates a presentation with transitions and other effects to put together an overview of a day in their life. Scholastic news is used in conjunction with language arts learning about what is happening around the world and how this affects students. The items covered in the news as well as the writing and editing caters to students and provides them with timely and engaging reading material. Brain Pop used extensively in math, science and history to introduce topics and help students understand the big picture before presenting more detailed lesson material.

School House Rock is used to review conjunctions and other writing topics where the rhythm and beat help engage students and teach important concepts (“SchoolhouseRock - Conjunction Junction,” n.d.). Graphic organizers offer fantastic support for creating engaging lesson plans (“Graphic Organizers,” n.d.). SigningSavvy provides resources on sign language (“Signing Savvy | ASL Sign Language Video Dictionary,” n.d.). Parade of Games is used to create compelling learning games for students to work on independently or in groups (“Parade Games | Parade.com,” n.d.). The list of Internet based resources that are used in the classroom continues to grow as new services and opportunities continue to arise.(Pape et al., 2009).

References

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APPENDIX A

| Technology | Available | How was it used? |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|
| Turning Point for school | 4 cases with 32 clickers in each case | Interactive quizzes with Power Point, each student has a clicker. Turning Point is used with Microsoft PowerPoint. |
| Computers | 9 in classroom | 3 desktop computers; 6 laptops |
| Copier Machine | 2 for school | Teacher's use this on a regular basis; located in office |
| Data Management System (i.e. Edusoft) | 6-8 | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mail server 2. Help Desk for trouble ticket 3. Voice mail system 4. Community form- school 5. SEIS- Special Ed Teacher 6. Scholastic- reading programs (read 180, read about, SRI) 7. others |
| Digital Camera | 10 | <p>We have 8 for students (after school program loan out to our classroom)</p> <p>2 for teacher's use</p> |
| Facebook/Myspace | NA | Discouraged to use with teaching. |
| Lamination Machine | 1 | In office for everyone |
| Overhead projector | 12 | One for every classroom |

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|---|----------------------------------|--|
| Overhead projector linked to computer | 12 | One for every classroom |
| Tape recorder/listening center | 4+ | Mainly used in the learning center, available for other |
| Teacher created web page, wiki, or networking site | 3 or 4 out of 12 teachers | 3-4 teacher update website daily/weekly and use with parents and students |
| Video equipment/player, camera, television | 12 | One per classroom |
| FAX Machine | 1 | office |
| Smart Board | 0 | None |
| Internet Resources | 2+ | Whole school subscribes to: Brain Pop, Discovery Education Our class subscribes to: Scholastic News and National Geographic for Kids |
| Podcasts | 12 | Every class with apple can use garage band. |
| Youtube/teachertube | 12 | All teachers |
| Universal streaming | Yes | Discovery Education |
| OTHER | 3 | Camcorders our school |

Computer access at home with Internet: 25 students out of 32 for our class

Power Point: all teacher's computers

Database: 8

Spreadsheet: all teacher computers

Web Page editor: 1

Web Digital Camera: 11 in our room

Email: All teachers computers