

Updated Technology Plan Professional Development

Professional Development occurs throughout the year to ensure the faculty's skill level is kept up to date on enhancements to software like Microsoft Office, electronic grading, Rubicon curriculum mapping, web design software, Google applications and other educationally based applications with a goal of eventual incorporation of graphic design software and application. SmartBoard training and support is also provided throughout the school year. In addition, ICS trains when new technology is deployed (i.e. laptop and iPad distribution) to maximize the impact on the learning process. The technology training is delivered in a variety of methods.

Faculty members are trained on a continuing basis by college credited courses and on Professional Development days with outside presenters. Faculty also receives in-house professional development from qualified members of our own community. A professional development opportunity is provided to faculty and staff members on a weekly to biweekly basis after school. This opportunity is hosted by the technology educator.

Skill development varies by grade and needs to match the curriculum. The Professional Development to address this variance is planned in conjunction with several outside experts based on identified needs. The professional development budget and received funding from state allows for opportunities for staff members and faculty to attend both state and out-of-state conferences and other professional development opportunities. This allows for faculty and staff to be encouraged to participate in professional development opportunities, as well as supported both as an individual and as a larger community.

Some of the elements of professional development will focus on the use of technology tailored to each grade and subject area. Other training opportunities are introduced to the entire faculty as new techniques are deployed for the entire school to use. Currently, ICS is focused on Rubicon curriculum mapping as a collaborative platform for teachers to further develop curriculum to support student learning. With the implementation of the 1:1 iPad device program a focus on iPad training and assistance in curriculum integration has become a component of professional development for the whole school with a larger focus within the middle school. There is also professional development focus on Robotics and Engineering. With the implementation of a Robotics and Engineering club in spring 2015 and ICS's receiving of a 3D printer and software for grades 3-8 curriculum a goal will be growing focus of professional development in the 2015-2016 school year will become on Robotics and Engineering curriculum. There is also a focus on the integration of Google applications in instruction.

One of the goals moving forward with professional development is to create relationships with other schools and organizations to help better support student learning. It is through these relationships we can learn and collaborate to better understand strategies used to implement technology, as well as discover new technology opportunities.

Some of the faculty training needs are determined by the nature of the Help Desk Trouble Tickets. Skills can be fine-tuned in a short timeframe by the Technology Director or Technology Instructor providing hands on refreshers on the use of the software.