

Applied Technology

There are three technology initiatives with the Saskatoon Catholic Schools. First is the use of technology by students in the instructional setting. Second is the use of technology in our libraries and third is the use of technology in our administrative functions. Critical to these three uses is the technical support structures that the school division has in place to ensure that the equipment is working properly and is available when needed by students, teachers, librarians, support staff and administration.

Technology for Instructional Use

There are a number of initiatives that are supported by the school division for the use of technology. The first is the use of the Technology and Learning Centre for staff in-service and training. We have been using this Centre in 1998 for training of administrative and support staff. In 1999, we will begin using the Centre for training of teachers. It is hoped that 200 teachers will be taking training in this year. The School Division also supports the use of the Internet by providing a free dial-up service for all staff. This modem pool is available to connect to the Internet from their home computers. Also, the school division has made arrangements with the Royal Bank of Canada for staff to obtain loans at prime rate to assist in the purchase of home computers. In 1999, the School Division has begun to put some staff resources into the development of a Virtual or Cyber School with a view to offering program to students in the year 2000.

Technology Use by Students - K to 8

The use of technology by students is primarily delivered in a congregated or lab setting in all elementary schools. Each lab is equipped with computer equipment using either the Macintosh or Windows platform. Each computer has a suite of software installed that has been purchased by the division for the delivery of the core program for technology. This core program is outlined in the Scope and Sequence for Technology document that lists all of the skills that students are expected to know at each grade level from K to Grade 8. Each elementary school can add to this program of instruction depending on the resources available.

These computers are all connected to the Internet. This means that each school develop and implement an acceptable use policy for the Internet. There is no blocking software that prevents inappropriate sites from being accessed. There is no e-mail by students without supervision by teachers.

Another initiative involves the centralization of server resources where students can log onto a remote server to access their files. This helps remove the use of diskettes and ensures that any lab based computer can be used by any student.

As well, there are initiatives for students to use technology under the direction of their Learning Assistance teacher and their Special Needs teacher.

Technology Use by Students - Grade 9 to 12

In each high school, there are the equivalent of two computer labs for use in the Information Processing and Computer Science courses. These courses are designed to facilitate the student use of technology at the high school level. The computers are all connected to the Internet. This means that each school develop and implement an acceptable use policy for the Internet. There is no blocking software that prevents inappropriate sites from being accessed. There is no e-mail by students without supervision by teachers.

Another initiative involves the centralization of server resources where students can log onto a remote server to access their files. This helps remove the use of diskettes and ensures that any lab based computer can be used by any student.

As well, there are initiatives for students to use technology under the direction of their Learning Assistance teacher, their Special Needs teacher, their guidance counselor and their ESL teacher. Other initiatives are occurring in the Graphic Arts and Drafting instruction.

Technology in the Libraries

Each library in the school division is equipped with OPAC terminals to allow students to search the local and division collection for materials. Most libraries have computers that allow for a wider range of searches using the Internet. With this, there is a requirement that each school develop and implement an acceptable use policy for the Internet. There is no blocking software that prevents inappropriate sites from being accessed. There is no e-mail by students without supervision by teachers.

Some of the schools have begun to use a combination of CD ROM resources and the Internet to augment the print materials and provide students with a variety of sources.

Technology in Administration

Each school office has at least two computers with full administrative functionality. Each school is expected to make use of electronic mail, accounting information for budget managers, personnel functions for staff absences and student data for demographics and attendance. The high schools also use the added functionality for student marks.

Each school office computer also has the capability for using productivity software such as word processors, spreadsheets and databases to use as local needs require.

As well, the Information Technology support team must ensure that the administrative personnel assigned to accounting, payroll, accounts payable and receivable, purchasing, facility management, Human Resources, Student Services and Instructional Services can do their work.

Technical Support

The school division supports the technology by a combination of contracted services and full-time personnel.

There are three main strands of support - Hardware, Software and Network support. If you are unsure, any one of the support group will be able to direct you if you are unable to determine the exact cause of the difficulty. Even within the support group, there are specialists. We can help you find someone who can assist.

Hardware support personnel deal with broken or inoperative devices ranging from computers, televisions, overheads and other audio-visual equipment. Jim Frost (668-7007) heads up this support group with Wayne Craig (668-7161) and Richard Cleveland (668-7043).

Software support personnel deal with issues pertaining to Library software, Campus America student records, E-Mail, software training, installation of software and license issues. Lena Savino-Boyko (668-7067) is in charge of this support area and works with Evan Danyluk (668-7004) and Charline Wilson (374-9861)

Network support personnel deal with issues regarding servers and the network connections that make the Internet and other wide area applications work. David Pattison (668-7062) works in this area with Lloyd Hansen (955-2408).

Issues that pertain to instruction or student initiatives, substitute teachers for school computer lab managers, budget issues, school web pages, software purchase, lab renovations, electrical and computer cabling and construction, unresolved issues or complaints, call Tom Dyck (668-7006).