Technology Interview

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I recently interviewed Beth Day, the technology instructor and coordinator for Jonathan Jennings Elementary School (JJES) located in the Greater Clark County School district. She related that teachers will have Smartboards and projectors in every classroom starting next fall. She related that each student in grades 3-5 will receive Chromebooks for home and school use beginning next fall as well. As far as productivity tools, most teachers rely only on Microsoft Office. The most widely used software to deliver instruction in the classroom is Smart Notebook and web-based tools such as Raz-Kids, Scholastic Read 180, and System 44. Currently, the resources for incorporating multimedia into lessons are all web-based via Smartboards and projectors.

JJES offers a variety of technology management tools. They utilize ID scanners for personnel entry and recently installed video surveillance cameras at the front office for visitor identification before entering the building. They also offer several software tools for grading including: PowerSchool, Skyware, ISTAR, IREAD, INORS, Acuity, and Inform. They utilize Acuity, STAR, and 21st Century Skills for portfolio purposes. The Greater Clark County Schools do not offer computer based online courses at the elementary level, but do offer a couple for high school.

The strategies for troubleshooting and maintaining various hardware and software configurations at JJES are usually self-addressed by the technology coordinator through trial and error. Their computer network is part of the main server which is based at Jeffersonville High School. The Greater Clark County School staff is given network privileges based on their hierarchy of need. JJES offers professional development and planning periods each week as needed or requested to address and maximize technology resources.

The Greater Clark County School Corporation makes all decisions for planning and purchasing technology resources. However, requests at JJES can be made through their PTO with input from the technology coordinator. The technology coordinator recommended web-based software to support and enhance the school curriculum rather than purchasing. All budget planning and management procedures are decided by the Greater Clark County School Corporation as well. The procedures for troubleshooting and preventative maintenance of the technology infrastructure are maintained by the network administrators at Jeffersonville High School.

The Greater Clark County School Corporation offers professional development once a month for technology coordinators to ensure continuous learning of school facilities, technology resources, and purchases.