School Vision and Rationale
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Technology has become a necessity in everyday life, not optional. If the students are utilizing technology to watch their favorite shows, communicate with their friends, and find out about any topic they can think of, then they need to be utilizing it in their educational journey. Many teachers view technology in the classroom as the instructor presenting information using technology. The most effective way for students to be engaged in learning and increase their performance is for the students to use technology to learn a new topic. ITSE NET-S Standard 6 states that students should "demonstrate a sound understanding of technology concepts, systems, and operations (2012)." They can only gain this understand of new technologies if they are using it in the classroom.

In an effective implementation of technology in our school community students are utilizing technology in a constructivist learning environment. This means that the students are using the technology to help them develop the understanding of a topic by constructing it in their minds versus a teacher simply delivering the information like a traditional lecture (Creighton, 2003). By implementing more technology in the classroom and using it in a constructivist approach, we will be moving towards meeting the vision of Villa Rica High School which is "To ensure that our students will meet world class academic standards, command effective communication skills and possess levels of competence required for pursuits in higher education or gainful employment (Villa Rica High School, 2012)."

In the article "How Teachers are Using Technology at Home and in Their Classrooms" by Purcell, Heaps, Buchanan, and Friedrich, they found that teachers of low-income students thought that the lack of access to technology for their students was a challenge to their education (2013). At our school we have a lot of students who are on

free and reduced lunch and do not have the finances to purchase their own technology. I

think it is very important that we think about incorporating a one-to-one initiative at our

school to help our low-income students and our low-achieving students. By providing

students with their own technology, then that technology can be woven into every

classroom throughout the day. There is interactive software that can be used that has

shown gains with students who are at risk for dropping out or getting behind (EdTech

Action Network).

Maine initiated a one-to-one laptop program where every 7th and 8th grade student

was given his or her own laptop. They studied the effects of the laptop initiated and

published their results. They found that over 70% of their teachers said that the laptop let

them differentiate instruction based on the individual student's needs and helped them to

meet state teaching standards (Silvernail & Lane, 2004). Our school needs a program like

this where we can meet every student at their current level and help them to increase their

mastery. Many of our students come to high school behind grade level and are at risk of

dropping out. By utilizing a one-to-one program they would be exposed to technology

that they aren't receiving at home and hopefully they will stay in school and increase

their mastery of the state standards to make them college and career ready.

References

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