

Technology – District-wide

George Brady, Director of Technology

Among the department's key projects are:

- **Meal Pay Plus Program** – implements a new online payment and management food service system allowing parents to manage their child(ren)s meal plan and allow for online payment. Parents can also view food choices being made in school. An option to have auto reminders when balances are running low will also be made available.
- A **new storage area network** has knocked down former barriers in the district's previously finite storage capacity. The network is both robust and scalable in order to meet our increasing data storage needs. Instructionally, this will **support e-portfolios, digital content creation, and complex multi-media projects.**
- We are building a **new high speed fiber network to increase our telecommunication capacity between buildings.** This will replace our low speed connections at the elementary schools. The new system will permit centralized computer and network resources, and will allow for the sharing of instructional content between buildings. Additionally, it will provide higher speed to the internet.

We will be piloting the following new programs:

- a digital content management system which will **allow inter-district publishing and sharing of digital based content e.g.: Smartboard lessons, digital video, podcasts,** etc. This will serve as a centralized repository for digital content easily accessibly by teachers, students, and staff;
- use of **desktop videoconferencing in building technology labs and other select areas.** This will help facilitate global connections, and access to content experts such as scientists, doctors, authors, etc.;
- As part of our continuing goal to support 21st century skills, the district will be looking to **utilize more web 2.0 based tools to support teaching and learning such as wikis, blogs, podcasts, videoconferencing both in district as well as globally;**
- We will begin to pilot the **implementation of wireless access to technology resources.** We will be providing wireless connectivity to certain areas within the district;
- The district is a member of the Rockland County 21st Century Learning Project. This project is designed as an initiative to **establish an educational and professional working network between all Rockland school districts and to create an educational portal through which all teachers throughout the county will be able to access and share instructional materials and information.**

It is the goal of the Technology Department to provide access to instructional tools and resources to support state-of-the-art teaching and learning. This will empower our students giving them the skills necessary to be globally competitive in the 21st century.