

## State of Technology Today

The following illustrates some of the high-level items that have been achieved over the past several years to reinforce the goals of technology in our school.

- > Facilitated the electronic distribution of K-6 report cards
- > Upgraded District VoIP phone system
- > Launched new District-wide website
- > Deployed 1:1 Chromebook devices K-6
- > Fully implemented Google's G-Suite for education tools for teachers and students
- > Installed sound field systems in all PreK-6 classrooms
- > Created targeted and ongoing professional learning opportunities for teachers
- > Upgraded student information system and school communication systems (PowerSchool and Swift K12)
- > Upgraded to Smart TVs in all classrooms
- > Upgraded security cameras
- > Upgraded physical servers to support the virtual environment
- > Added a redundant firewall
- > Successfully designed and executed a student-run morning news broadcast
- > Virtual Reality cart
- > Signed the Future Ready Schools Pledge
- > First Lego League competitive team

"Technology can be a powerful tool for transforming learning. It can help affirm and advance relationships between educators and student, reinvent our approaches to learning and collaboration, shrink long-standing equity and accessibility gaps, and adapt learning experiences to meet the needs of all learners."

—2017 National Educational Technology Plan

## BOE Technology Committee

EJ Maher, Chair  
John Paul Garcia  
Shawn Uscilla

## BCS Technology Committee

Colleen Murray  
Tom Reed-Swale  
Kai Byrd  
Matthew Bruder  
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Superintendent of Schools

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Director of Special Services, Curriculum &  
Instruction

Matthew Bruder  
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\*This document outlines a plan for addressing the technology needs of the Bethany Public School District in order to support 21st-century learning. Changes in enrollment, funding, and education legislation, as well as advances in technology, could alter the Technology Plan or its intended timeline.

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# Bethany Public Schools Technology Plan 2020-2023



**We inspire and empower  
children to thrive in the  
world of tomorrow.**

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*The Connecticut Core Standards embody rigorous content expectations that intend to prepare students beyond our elementary school walls. Technology is no longer looked at as a way to “engage our young students in learning,” but rather requires our learners to make complex decisions about how, when, and why to use technology. The need for meaningful technology integration into learning in the elementary school is imperative. Students are held accountable for technology proficiencies throughout the content standards at a much younger age than before. The Bethany Public School District must prepare to challenge our teachers to rethink how they can utilize mobile technology in the classroom, guide them to accept the paradigm shift and change what they did to what they can now do while incorporating technology throughout the content standards.*

*The District’s working vision is to provide and maintain mobile technology for staff and students in a 1:1 environment so that teachers can work collaboratively with students in a blended learning classroom environment.*

### **Learning: Engaging and Empowering Learning Through Technology**

**Goal:** All learners will have engaging, empowering learning experiences in both formal and informal settings that prepare them to be active, creative, knowledgeable, and ethical participants in our globally connected society.

- > Integrate Google’s G-Suite for Education modules into curricula
- > Implement K-6 Information Literacy and Digital Citizenship Curriculum
- > Promote technologies that empower students to personalize their learning by choosing tools, topics, and resources
- > Explore and pilot technologies that allow students to learn about the world through virtual, physical and augmented experiences

“We need to prepare our students for the future, not our past.” -Ian Jukes

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### **Teaching: Teaching with Technology**

**Goal:** Educators will be supported by technology that connects them to people, data, content, resources, expertise, and learning experiences that can empower and inspire them to provide more effective teaching for all learners.

- > Increase the number of Google certified teachers
- > Create online learning tools to provide staff training in technology and innovative classroom practices
- > Create a dedicated technology coach position for K-6
- > Increase opportunities for teachers to pilot emerging technologies in the classroom
- > Expand online knowledge base
- > Implement Bold Moves Action plan to continue personalized student-centered learning
- > Explore Open Education Resources (OER)

### **Leadership: Creating a Culture and Conditions for Innovation/Change**

**Goal:** Embed an understanding of technology-enabled education within the roles and responsibilities of education leaders at all levels.

- > Revise curriculum performance tasks to include real-world, technology-enhanced project-based learning challenges
  - > Create a Curriculum Review Guide to reflect the goals of our District technology plan
  - > Create a K-6 Technology Committee
  - > Assess staff Cybersecurity
  - > Provide Cybersecurity education for staff
  - > Update Board policies and administrative regulations to reflect current technological environment and standards
  - > Personalized Professional Learning for staff
  - > Opportunities for staff to be Tech Leaders/ Mentors
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### **Assessment: Measuring for Learning**

**Goal:** At all levels, our education system will leverage the power of technology to measure what matters and use assessment data to improve learning.

- > Embed technologies that facilitate teachers’ ability to measure learning, that is adaptive, and that provide immediate impact
- > Establish and analyze educational application metrics to inform curriculum and budgetary decisions
- > Encourage students to use available assessment data to reflect and set learning goals
- > Develop shared online assessment repository for educators

“Technology will not replace great teachers but technology in the hands of great teachers can be transformational.” -George Couros

### **Infrastructure: Enabling Access and Effective Use**

**Goal:** All students and educators will have access to robust and comprehensive infrastructure when and where they need it for learning.

- > Integrate the use of Document Management System to electronically track, manage and store documents and reduce paper
- > Explore allowing Grades 4-6 allowing devices to go home
- > Maintain technology refresh cycle
- > Develop and implement consistent expectations for website maintenance, access, and ease of use
- > Migrate all curriculum documents to shared drives
- > Maximize E-Rate funding

This document outlines a plan for addressing technology needs of the Bethany Public School District in order to support future ready learning. Changes in enrollment, funding and education legislation, as well as advances in technology, could alter this technology plan.

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