

The Future of Technology in STSD

Board,

Purpose

We are looking at our technology program, lack or limited program. If we are to prepare our students for their lives in the 21st Century, we need to expose them to more current strategies, techniques, and skills that are available.

The Vision

The administrative team is exploring the possibility of going to an educational strategy of one computer device per student—starting at the high school. Although this approach will not be the standard approach other districts use, we believe it will be innovative and much more beneficial to our students with a higher expectation of use.

The plan will include professional development and a plan for implementing over time. Too fast, too soon could create frustration and despair, so a deliberate transition will be utilized.

At this time, we are planning to utilize a few rooms in the basement of the high school to help support the initiative and provide the Technology Department with the space and location that would benefit high school students and staff. Space in the basement will also be designated as professional development space to support the initiatives. In addition, a course or program may be proposed to provide students an opportunity to learn about and practice working a technology helpdesk. Students would run the helpdesk. The plan, also, is to work toward adding courses to the business department that are technology experiences. We would like opportunities for students to learn to code. Coding is one of the most popular courses being added in schools. The reason is that students can acquire jobs in coding after graduating high school. This program could impact many students who do not wish to continue their formal education after high school.

The student computer program and the courses are only in the planning stages. But, we want you to know that we are working to prepare a proposal for the board to review and hopefully approve in the near to not too distant future.

The final thing to share here is that we are working with our grant writer to secure alternative funding by preparing a business plan of our vision and present to a possible benefactor to help fund. However, if funding cannot occur that way, we plan to offer a plan that would fund the vision of little impact on the annual budget as possible. Mr. Green is working with vendors to see if they would be willing to fund or support the plan in whatever way possible due to the innovativeness of the program. A few vendors have expressed some interest.

Thank you for reading this far. We want to give you as much information upfront as we can. We hope to continue to keep you informed as we move forward in bringing a proposal to you. The proposal could come as soon as March or April. We want the proposal to be as comprehensive as possible to cover the questions and concerns you may see as we unveil this vision. It is very exciting and inspiring because we believe it will bring a lot of positive attention to STSD, but, most of all, a world class education to our students.

Thank you.

Tod