

Understanding Your School's Technology Culture

I. Technological Capacity and Capabilities

1. What kind of technology is available to you?
 - Zip Drive
 - Digital Projector
 - Boom box - very important to me as a music teacher. I actually plug my iPhone or laptop straight in to it to play the music I need.
 - Sound system - the sound guy via the district is working on getting me speakers for my room that I can use via my sound system and Bluetooth so that I can control the music from anywhere in the room. I don't know if I will end up using my personal phone or something else but either way, it would be SOOOOO much better than what I'm doing now.
 - Microsoft Office
 - I may be getting a Permethean board in my classroom at one of my schools.
2. What internet capability is available?
 - The download speed is 22.06 mbps and the upload speed is 10 mbps.
3. How is computer and internet access provided? Dispersed computers? 1 to 1? Labs? iPads on carts? Can students use their own equipment?
 - I have a desktop and a laptop (the laptop is being repaired but I have one!)
 - At Talkeetna Elementary (TKE) there is a computer lab with about 20 computers
 - (TKE)We also just got 11 tablets for student use. They are super cool. I want one for myself. They use Microsoft 8 which is awesome if you know how to use it. I kind of do. They are in a movable cart.

- At Trapper Creek Elementary (TCE), because the students are so young, they are not allowed to use most of their equipment. However, they can use their own kindles or tablets to read at designated times if it's appropriate.
 - At Trapper Creek Elementary, there are a certain amount of desktops in each classroom and there are also 10 laptops and 9 iPads.
4. What kinds of filters are in place, and how do they restrict what you might want to do?
 - (Both schools) Our district uses iBoss which restricts very little.
 5. If resources like social media are blocked, are there "intranet" options? Are there ways to get special permission to use blocked resources?
 - I have not come across any social media sites that are blocked but I know that we can ask our technology guys via the district for help with anything like that.
 6. Who has the specialty gear (cameras, scanners, etc.) and can you use it?
 - (TCE) 2 document cameras that can move around. Right now, they are in the 2 main classrooms.
 - (TCE) a video flip camera that the secretary has and can sign out to those who want to use them.
 - (TCE) there are cameras that can take photos only and an external hard drive. There is also a printer that can print nice photos in the server room.
 - (TCE) there is a big xerox printer in the work room that can only print black and white.
 7. What is your best sense of the technology that your students have at home? To what extent can you expect them to have access to technology and internet access outside school to work on school projects?

- Last year, I posted tutorials for all of the concert songs on YouTube and I wanted to assign practice time as homework so I sent a survey home to ask about internet access. At Talkeetna Elementary all the families except one had access but at Trapper Creek Elementary it was almost the exact opposite. I have been told that the Talkeetna Elementary parents and students loved my videos so planning on putting some up again.

II. Leadership and Policies

8. Are missions and plans used and generally valued at school? Do you use them?
 - (TCE) Instead of a mission, we use our guidelines for success. They are not posted online.
9. Does your school have a mission statement and an educational technology plan? If so, when were they last updated? Attach them or provide a link to them from your blog.
 - (TCE) There is a district mission statement regarding technology and we follow that. It is available [here](#): (However, right now, the page is unavailable.)
10. Do the missions and plans address the issues of digital citizenship, online safety and responsible or developing a balanced view of technology adoption?
 - The Anchorage police come to each school and do a presentation on internet safety each year. It is very effective.

11. Is technology well-funded at your school? Do you see signs of technology rotation, professional development and on-going maintenance of existing equipment?
- Yes, yes, and yes. We just got the 10 tablets last year and I can access almost anything I ask for. I don't ask for much but when I have, it is installed quickly and we are asked to put in a work order when anything in the school is in need of repair.
12. Does your school have Internet use and parent permission policies? When were they last updated? Attach them or provide a link to them from your blog.
- Yes, they are available here:
 - [School internet use guidelines](#)
 - [Parent Permission info \(iParent\)](#)
13. Who are the ed tech leaders within your school? Does your school have an ed tech committee? Is it active? What are its responsibilities?
- (TCE) since our school is so small (only 20+ students and a handful of staff) we do not have an official committee but there are some staff members who end up being the go-to for tech questions (Aubrey and Garry). We also rely on district staff, such as Bob Crowe, for tech help.
14. Has your school adopted or established competencies for students? When were they last updated? Attach them or provide a link to them from your blog.
- (TCE) not yet, we follow the [district guidelines](#) right now.
15. Who are the student leaders in technology? Are there programs that allow them to use their expertise to help

teachers and other students? Are there special programs that allow them to pursue their interests?

- (TCE) we don't have official student leaders because of age.

16. Are community members involved in regards to using technology in your school?

- (TCE) Community members may use the free wifi.

17. If something breaks, who fixes it? How do you contact them? Are corrective and on-going maintenance well supported?

- If it is a minor repair, I can ask the janitor, try to fix it myself, or ask another staff member who might know how to fix it. If it is beyond our capabilities, I place a work order through the district and the technology guys will fix it. I see maintenance personnel often and know most of them by name as do the staff I work with on a daily basis.