

Technology Overview

Twenty-first Century Tools for Twenty-first Century Learners

From its inception, Westside Community Schools, District 66, has set lofty academic standards for itself and its students. Those standards have been the driving force behind the district's tradition of innovation and excellence since the district opened in 1952. Once a suburban school district situated on the western edge of Omaha, Westside now lies in the heart of the city, drawing a diverse community of students from all corners of a three-county metropolitan area. Each day, over 6,000 students in grades K-12 come to Westside to take advantage of its innovative solutions for teaching and learning.

Westside's 1-to-1 initiative, one computer for every student, began at our high school building in 2004, when Westside administrators invited teachers to imagine what their school might look like if every student had 24/7 access to a notebook computer. In 2008 our board of education expanded our One-to-One program to include 8th graders at our Middle School. The Board of Education made Westside a fully One-to-One K-12 school district in the spring of 2014. The board unanimously voted to provide every student with a computing device beginning with the 2014-15 school year. Laptop usage expanded to 7th graders while kindergarten through 6th grade students will be provided with iPads.

Teachers in each of our instructional disciplines and grade levels have continued to push each other by developing new use after new innovative use. Languages, science, mathematics, social studies, business, the arts, engineering technology, consumer sciences, and physical education all have tried new applications of the technology and have shared their success stories with the other members of our building staff. This natural process of experimentation and sharing has produced an organic growth of innovation that would not have thrived in an environment of administratively mandated implementation.

Our students and teachers continue to develop phenomenal practices on a daily basis. The continuous development of new technologies that will become available to us in the future leaves no doubt that this powerful progression of intellectual and creative growth will not diminish. Technology has become, and will continue to be an essential component in the DNA of Westside Community Schools.