Miller County Middle School

Five Year Technology Plan

2013 – 2018

Revised February 4, 2016

Robert Melton, Principal

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Technology Team

Jimmy Phillips-Technology Director
Robert Melton – Principal
Angela King – Academic Coach
Jamie Burke, Teacher
Jana Clenney- Parent Representative

Vision Statement

The Miller County Middle School envisions that our students will have access to the technology that they need to be skilled problem solvers. We will strive to ensure that all students will achieve the high standards listed by the State of Georgia and every student attending our school will learn to demonstrate competency in computer applications.

Mission Statement

Pirates exhibit integrity by upholding the highest ethical standards and moral values, make positive character driven choices, are responsible for creating accountable partnerships, and are empowered to respect and be respected, and believe that they can achieve excellence through confidence in themselves, their school and their community.

Demographics

Currently, the Miller County Middle School has approximately 232 students in attendance; 113 are female and 119 are male. Of the total number of students, approximately 60 % are White, 36 % are Black, 0 % are Indian, <1 % are Hispanic, 1% are Mixed, and 2 % are Asian.

Current Technology

During the summer and fall of 2013, the Miller County Middle School's internet access was upgraded through an ERATE grant. The school's wiring was upgraded from CAT5 to CAT6, a 10 Gbps WAN fiber line was installed to connect the school to the Board Office, internet bandwidth was expanded to 100 Mbs, and new blade servers were brought on line to move the school data into a "virtual" environment. In the fall of 2013, the district funded hardware upgrades for 14 teachers and 2 office personnel within the school. Old hardware is slated for upgrade, if possible, and will be re-distributed as student computers. There is an average of 7.4 students per computer in the school.

Most of the student computers are obsolete or in need of an upgrade. They are all running Windows XP which is about to meet its "End of Life", which means no more security updates

will be available. The processor speeds and the amount of memory of all student computers are below the industry standard required for much of our learning software. As of right now, there are 25 old lab and teacher computers targeted for upgrade to Windows 7 and Office 2010 by the District Office of Technology. The technology department suggests that up to 10 of those computers may be used to replace old student computers within the middle school.

The middle school does not have an adequate firewall or filtering system in place. The current firewall lacks a GUI interface for rule management and creation, is past its "End of Life", and does not have levels of security which are required to provide tiered security at the school level. The filtering system was originally configured to serve as a proxy and does not comply with the recommended usage outlined by the vendor. The vendor cannot support the filter with the current configuration. The system needs reconfiguring as an inline content filter which would filter all traffic and allow no bypassing of the filter unless approved at the district level. The main concern is that reworking the filter may bottle neck data streams due to a lack of capacity. District technology is in communication with UDT, a technology firm, to determine if the filter will work in our existing system and what changes to the network will be required.

Revised February 4, 2016

The District conducted a Network Assessment in January of 2016. The results reflected the need to begin updating the CICSCO switches in each school. The Middle school shares an IDF room with the High school that contains 3 switches which will be replaced with newer models. The choice was made to do the complete IDF room because the newer versions are not compatible with those currently in use because they are reaching end of life. The old switches will be stored in technology for emergency replacement of existing switches that are at end of life as needed. This aligns with plans to continue upgrading IDF rooms yearly or every other year, depending on the availability of E-rate funding. Meetings with the leadership at the District level during County Wide Planning meetings have indicated that the District is updating the System Technology plan to align with each schools updated plan. The Middle school is adding District actions and planning as a component of the Feb 2016 update to this technology plan.

Milestones

- In 2014, all old monitors were updated to flat screen models
- In 2014, A 30 laptop COW (computer on wheels) was assembled from old computers updated by the technology department.
- The student computer ratio has improved since the creation of this plan.
  1. In Fall 2015 the Middle School created a computer lab in room 801 by adding 30 desktops to their inventory
  2. In Fall 2015, 2 computer labs were built at the BOE by the Technology Department by upgrading old inventory. The labs were used by the Middle School during Georgia Milestones testing. Over ninety percent of Middle School students tested on line.

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996 Phillipsburg Road
Colquitt, Georgia 39837

Needs Assessment

We are continuously evaluating the types of technology available and the integration of technology in the Miller County Middle School. This technology plan is based on a variety of mechanisms including informal observations by administrators, technology contacts, and teachers. We also receive student and community feedback on technology via surveys conducted during our annual needs assessment. Technology issues are discussed in leadership meetings so that feedback can be collected throughout the year. There are procedures in place that guide teachers and staff in the reporting of technology issues. In addition to the informal feedback collected throughout the school year, a committee was formed to develop specific goals and the strategies to meet those goals over the next five years. The following people served on that committee:

Robert Melton; Principal, Miller County Middle School
Angela King; Academic Coach, Miller County Middle School
James Phillips; Technology Director, Miller County School System
Jamie Burke; Teacher, Miller County Middle School
Jana Clenney; Parent, Miller County Middle School

The committee met November 5, 2013 to review the information and data collected by the individual members. The team members incorporated their ideas to plan strategies for technology improvements and enhancements in the Five Year Technology Plan Template provided by the curriculum director.

Revised February 4, 2016

Revisions were based on Middle School Team Meetings
District Review Team:
Robert Melton, Middle School Principal
Angela King, Instructional Coach for the Middle School
James Phillips, Curriculum and Technology Director
Preston Bowen, Lead Technology Specialist

The Middle School holds regular monthly school meetings and is revising the plan based on the needs established in those meetings. Their identified needs for technology include:

- Revise the Middle School Technology plan to ensure alignment with District Technology and Strategic Plans
- Add additional computers to continue reducing the school's student to computer ratio
- Update and or replace existing computers that are reaching their end of life
- Work with the District to prepare for Standard 4 (Resources and Support Systems) in preparation for the 2017 AdvancED school accreditation review
- Improve the school website so that it meets the needs of all stakeholders
- Build on the success of the Math computer lab by adding computers to support ELA

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Integration

Integrating Technology in the Curriculum

The Miller County Middle School places a major emphasis on integrating technology into the curriculum in grades six through eight. Teachers have (or will have) been taught to use SmartBoard, create PowerPoints, WebQuests, educational software, TLE, PowerSchool, Google Chrome, SLDS, and student presentations through the use of technology in the classroom.

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The Middle school will continue to pursue integration of Technology in the curriculum and are adding ELA to our priority list.
The Middle School is proud to celebrate the following Milestones:
- 7/30/2014; 7/28/15; Istation training for all teachers (Reading software)
- 8/11/14; 9/22/14, 7/29/15: ILearn training for all teachers (Math software)
- 8/13/2014; Plato training for Middle school teacher in the alternative school

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Teacher Training and Technology

The focus of teacher training is to better assist teacher in the integration of software into the curriculum. Training topics are divided into the following areas: management (PowerSchool), application (word processing, database, and spreadsheet – including Microsoft Office), Multimedia including Galileo, Discovery, and PowerPoint), and Telecommunication (Internet, e-mail, creating web pages, electronic research, and others), Instructional (Professional development to integrate technology in all areas of teaching and learning is offered on a regular and special request basis though RESA services). All offerings are listed in the professional development calendar on the RESA web site. Registration is handled through the professional learning department at the Central Office. An emphasis will be placed on training all middle school teachers in the use of Microsoft 2010. The major focus of the training will be PowerPoint presentations, creating web pages, researching the internet, creating graphs from research information (spreadsheet) and corresponding with others through e-mail and other multimedia such as web pages and blogs.

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RESA and on-site training will continue moving forward.
Middle School Milestones:
- Local Training: Development of Curriculum Maps and Pacing Guides; All teachers attended the two day training (using word) 5/27 and 5/28, 2015
- 8/21/2014; Scranton training for Instructional Coach

- September 2014 – April 2015; All Middle School teachers were provided Smartboard training
- 9/09/14; 9/10/14; 11/05/14; All MS teachers were trained to use the Student Longitudinal Data System
- 10/23/14; SLDS training for SLO uploads; Instructional Coach, Band teacher
- 11/10/14; Milestones test training; Instructional Coach
- 1/9/15; ILearn training; in-house by instructional coach to all teachers
- 3/23/15; Milestones administration
- 5/13/15; Ga College 411, Three teachers
- 9/9/15; New copy machine scan function training

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Critical Issues

The critical issues for the middle school are high student/computer ratio, lack of a mini computer lab, lack of a computer lab, two classrooms without SmartBoards, professional development to support integration of technology, and the need for student computers in classrooms to support intervention. We currently have 7.4 students per computer and we want to decrease that to 1 computer per 5 students in the regular classrooms. Student work stations in the classroom provide a valuable tool for differentiation and intervention. We hope to increase our computer to student numbers through the use of Federal grants, State grants, and local funding. Those funds will also be used to maintain and replace equipment as needed and as appropriate. We have upgraded teacher computers with Office 2010 and will need to ensure they receive training that will improve their ability to incorporate technology into the curriculum. Professional learning dollars allocated to the school will be used to support teacher training in the use of programs, software, and multimedia associated with the upgrade. We currently use SmartBoards in our classrooms and would like to have them in 100% of our classrooms. Teachers need additional training in the use of SmartBoards which will enable them to become more effective in the use of the technology. We would like to have five student computers in each core classroom to facilitate intervention and differentiation. We currently use Math and Reading Academy as our intervention software but we do not have enough working computers to use in the regular classroom. We need a computer lab that will house a classroom supply of computers to be used in Intervention classes. We also need five computer stations in the Teacher work area for use in career planning, surveys, testing, and to serve as a mini computer lab. We are currently in need of funding to replace aging and faulty equipment such as projectors and printers. We need supplies to support the use of technology in progress monitoring testing and all aspects of printing.

If we are able to acquire the additional intervention computers, SmartBoards, Computer stations and supplies we will be able to monitor the success of implementation through the progress monitoring tools provided with Math and Reading Academy. In addition, CRCT scores will be expected to increase as more computer access is made available to our students. The professional development of our teachers can be monitored through student growth records within the Georgia Student Longitudinal Data System (SLDS).

Goal

1. We will encourage learning that is relevant and authentic through the use of technology.

   Rational: If technology is available, students can be more autonomous, collaborative, and reflective than in classrooms where technology is not present. Additional access to technology will provide students with the opportunity to engage in real-life applications of academics and encourage students to be more independent and responsible for their own learning. In a knowledge-based society, it is important that students have the self-confidence, knowledge base, technology fluency, and cooperative skills that will enable them to continue to learn throughout their lives. Technology facilitates the study of academics within the context of meaningful and authentic applications.

Strategies:	Proposed Timeline
Maintain the WAN/LAN connectivity in the school	Implemented by the district and evaluated yearly by the school to establish needs.
Increase the classroom student/computer ratio to 2.5 students per computer and a ratio of 1:1 in the Intervention Classroom/ Computer Lab/ Purchase a Document camera for all teachers/ Purchase Student Response Systems for each classroom/ Purchase 5 computers to be used as a mini-lab in the Academic Coach's office/ Maintenance and repairs on existing technology	Submit ongoing requests to the district for new student computers and explore grant funding options over the next 5 years
New firewall and filtering system for the school	Implementation in-line with district goal of 1 year to completion

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Milestones:

- The firewall and filtering system was updated to meet CIPA requirements through the use of the State of Georgia 7MM grant.
- WAN/LAN connectivity has been maintained and extended by adding 30 additional drops and 2 additional wireless access points in November of 2015.
- Added 30 computers in room 801 to create a lab to support Math instruction and for College 411, GoFAR, TKES, student surveys, and AdvancED.
- Added 4 new laptops in fall 2015
- Added a 30 laptop COW (computer on wheels) equipment refurbished by the technology department

2. We will align the use of technology with local and state content standards and curricula to enhance learning and enrich teaching.

Rational: Standards are broad based statements that describe student knowledge, skills, and abilities, establishing a target for learning across grade levels and content areas. Aligning technology use in the curriculum to standards insures that each learner obtains the greatest educational benefit, preparation for real-world experiences.

Teachers will model and use productivity tools and internet resources in the classroom and are encouraged to assign projects requiring technology skills.	Evaluated yearly with survey and ongoing with observation. Train teachers in the use of productivity tools and internet resources in ongoing professional development.
Teacher will attend workshops to better prepare them to make use of technology in the classroom.	Implementation underway- the principal is encouraged to use professional development monies to pay for substitutes teachers for teacher technology training
Teachers will make goals for professional development about learning and integrating technology into their classroom	Will begin in Fall 2013 and be evaluated through TKEYS in an ongoing basis through 2018.

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Milestones:

- TKES continues being used as a teacher evaluation tool with 100% participation; the data is used to guide professional development which includes technology. Teachers work with principals to set goals for their learning
- Teacher training is ongoing and professional development monies are being used to pay substitutes and stipends to teachers attending professional development on the use of technology and integration of technology in the classroom
- Teachers are surveyed yearly by the Data department and information is shared with the school principal who works with teachers and instructional coach, the professional learning director, technology director, curriculum director, and the superintendent to identify professional development needs
- Curriculum director and instructional coach perform focus walks which help identify technology training needs.

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Budget

Professional Learning – Yearly support from Title IIA at 10% of school allocation est. $ 4,000
Student Classroom Workstation Computers - 114 x $ 800 each = $91,200
Intervention Classroom/ Computer Lab 32 x $800 each = $25,600
COWS (Computers on Wheels) 32 x $700= $ 22,400
Smartboards – 3 x $ 3,800 each = $ 11,400 (Josh, Sherita, and Holly)
Student Response System (32 per classroom) 480 x $20 = $960
Document Cameras 15 x $200 = $3,000

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Mini-Lab 5 x $800 = $4,000
Maintenance and Repairs 5 years x $10,000= $50,000

The lack of funding has limited the ability of the Middle school to upgrade and maintain their computer hardware and software. As a result we no longer use Study Island, Star, and Write Score. The school has been able to use state and local grant funding to improve technology. Title I and Title VIB have provided the majority of funds used to support technology.

Available Budget: The Middle School currently has 7,532.00 budgeted in Title VIB for FY16, they can use the money to buy Smartboards, projectors, and/or computers that support the Title I SWP.

Budget planning:

- The District recommends each school set aside 1000.00 to maintain and repair technology
- The District is budgeting 4000.00 to match E-rate funding for new switches in a Middle and High school IDF room
- The District budget will include a fair share cost for Middle school internet and phone service

Milestones:

In 2015: Title I funds were used to buy 13 desktops for the new computer lab
In 2015: Title VIB funded 17 desktops for the new computer lab
In 2015: Title I funded 4 new laptops

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Summary

The leadership team will meet each month and the agenda will include a discussion of technology issues in the school. The District Technology Coordinator will meet with the Principals, Superintendent, and other District personnel on a quarterly basis. All technology contacts are in constant contact with the District Technology Coordinator and the Technology Specialists through phone and e-mail.

Professional Development is ongoing and may change due to new purchases, changes in technologies, or requests and/or demand. Feedback from participants is used to determine the value of training.

Purchases are evaluated based on need and cost by the school with input from the staff. If an element is not working, new solutions are investigated and purchase plans are changed. All decisions are data driven. Input from the Superintendent, Finance Director, Curriculum Director, Federal Programs Director, staff, parents, students and other stakeholders may also influence additions, edits, or deletions from the current plan.

Middle School Technology Plan Revision Agenda
2/4/16

Additional input:
- Add information if needed

Agreements:
- Review of the revised Middle School Plan and agreed to adopt changes
- Discuss and agreed on the priorities for available Title VIB funding
- Agreed to continue documentation of technology efforts in the Middle School
- Agreed to continue addressing Technology needs in school meetings

Actions:
- Adopt the changes to the technology plan as presented
- Sign this agenda signifying the review teams acceptance of the plan
- Execution of a final copy to be sent to the Superintendent for final approval
- Distribution of signed copies to each team member and the Superintendent
- Presentation of the revised plan in the next available Middle School meeting

The Following team members do hereby sign in acknowledgement of acceptance of this revised Middle School Technology plan on 2/4/16.

District review team members

Robert Melton, Middle School Principal

Angela King, Instructional Coach

James Phillips, Curriculum/Technology Director

Preston Bowen, Lead Technology Specialist

J. Allen Kicklighter, Superintendent