



Miller County High School Five Year Technology Plan



2013 – 2018

Revised February 4, 2016

David Kirkland, Principal



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Technology Team

David Kirkland – Principal
Linda Miller – Academic Coach
James Phillips – Technology Director
Preston Bowen- Technology Support
Linda Miller- Academic Coach
Leigh Ann Walton- Teacher
Jason Houston- Teacher
Frank Killingsworth- Teacher
Tim Martin- Teacher
Bert Bodiford- Teacher
Amanda Nowell- Teacher
Joye Bailey- Teacher

Technology Vision

The Miller County High 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 High School has approximately 298 students in attendance; 155 are female and 143 are male. Of the total number of students, approximately 68% White, 28 % Black, less than 1% Hispanic, and less than 1 % Asian.

Current Technology

During the summer and fall of 2013, the Miller County High 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 22 teachers and 1 office personnel within the school. The district also funded 30 new computers for the business classroom and 25 new computers for the computer lab. Old hardware is slated for upgrade, if possible, and will be re-distributed as student computers. There is an average of less than 1 computer per student in the high 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

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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 5 of those computers may be used to replace old student computers within the Alternative School.

The high 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 in-line 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.

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The District conducted a Network Assessment in January of 2016. The results reflected the need to begin updating the CISCOS switches in each school. The High school shares an IDF room with the Middle 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 High 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 16 laptop COW (computer on wheels) was assembled from old equipment by the technology department
- The student computer ratio has improved since the creation of this plan
 1. In Fall 2015, the high school created a computer lab in room 602 by adding 16 desktops to their inventory
 2. 12/5/13; added 18 new laptops
 3. 1/16/14; added 3 new smartboards
 4. In Fall 2015, 2 computer labs were built at the BOE by the Technology Department who updated old decommissioned equipment. The labs were used by the High School and supported the system with online testing resulting in over ninety percent of students testing on line. The additional labs relieved the demand on High School labs for testing.



Needs Assessment

We are continuously evaluating the types of technology available and the integration of technology in the Miller High 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:

David Kirkland; Principal, Miller County High School

Linda Miller; Academic Coach, Miller County High School

James Phillips; Technology Director, Miller County School System

Teachers – Leigh Ann Walton, Joye Bailey, Jason Houston, Bert Bodiford, Amanda Nowell, and Frank Killingsworth

Parent – Corey Thomas

Technologist – Preston Bowen

The committee met October 2, 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 Technology Director.

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Revisions were based on High School Team Meetings

District Review Team:

David Kirkland, High School Principal

Linda Miller, Instructional Coach for the High School

James Phillips, Curriculum and Technology Director

Preston Bowen, Lead Technology Specialist

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

- Revise the High School Tech Plan to alignment with District Tech 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
- Expanding the 16 computer lab in room 602 to a 30 computer lab



Integration

Integrating Technology in the Curriculum

The High School places a major emphasis on integrating technology into the curriculum in grades 9-12. Teachers have (or will have) been taught to use Smart Board, create PowerPoints, Web Quests, educational software, TLE, PowerSchool, Google Chrome, SLDS, and student presentations through the use of technology in the classroom.

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The High school will continue to pursue integration of Technology in the curriculum.

The High School is proud to celebrate the following **Milestones**:

- 7/29/15; Plato and USA Test Pre training made available to all High School Teachers
- 1/06/15; Plato training for all teachers using Plato

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 through 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 high 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.

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
- 8/20/2014; Scranton training for Instructional Coach
- September '15 – April '15; All High School teachers were provided Smartboard training
- 11/06/14; SLDS training; Instructional Coach, and SLO teachers
- 9/11/15; New copy machine scan function training



Critical Issues

The critical issues for the high school are low student/computer ratio, four additional Smart Boards, professional development to support integration of technology, and the need for student computers in classrooms to support intervention. Focus on integrating student based technology into the curriculum. We currently have less than one computer per student and we want to increase that to five students per computer which would mean 60 additional computers. 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. The monies from the grants would also provide updates, maintenance and replacement parts for technology. 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 Smart Boards in our classrooms and would like to have them in 100% of our classrooms. Teachers need additional training in the use of Smart Boards 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 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. We would also like to provide science, social studies and math department teachers with Student Response Systems to better assess and provide immediate feedback to our students. The aforementioned academic areas are shown to be weak areas. These areas would benefit from the upgrade of technology within the classroom.

If we are able to acquire the additional intervention computers, Smart Boards, 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, EOCT 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 5 students per computer	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 22 additional drops and 4 additional wireless access points in November of 2015.
 - Added 16 computers in room 602 to create a lab to support student research, testing, and core content
 - 12/5/13; added 18 new laptops
 - 1/16/14; added 3 new smartboards
 - Spring of 2015; added a 16 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	Will begin in Fall 2013 and be evaluated

