
iPad for Middle Years

Beautiful Plains School Division



iPad Plan

Roll out plan for middle years iPads (10 per classroom) by the end of April to grade 7 at NACI. Prepare a spot in your classroom to store and re-charge. Consider a locked cabinet so they can be locked for the night. Get a couple of power bars and figure out how you will have access to power. iPads for Grade 8 will occur in the spring of 2016.



iPads and Learning

1. Learning Pyramid – Students retain information best when they interact with it and teach it to others.
Task: Find a model of the retention Learning Pyramid and save it on your ipad.
2. The skill set our students need to thrive in their future is different from the past generation. Students need to be prepared for their future, not their past. They need digital literacy skills. This includes ethical and responsible use.
3. Students need to develop 21st century learning skills of creative thinking, critical thinking, problem solving, collaboration, communication, digital literacy, and global awareness.

How can we best use technology to engage students students and prepare them for their future?

Technology doesn't engage students, meaningful work engages students. A mundane task on a computer is still a mundane task.

The simplest, lowest level use of technology is drill and practice. The next level is consumption of information, that is reading or viewing something on the web. A higher level is simulations and virtual tours, possibly using Google maps to explore landforms, cities, or museums. A higher level is creation of materials with software or Apps. The highest level of interaction with technology is programming. Technology is too expensive and useful to just use at its simplest level. We need to get beyond drill and practice. We want students to **create products** to show they understand their curriculum.

How does technology connect to 21st century learning skills?

1. Students need to **problem solve**. When students have a tech problem THEY need to find the answer. Teachers should guide but the answer often comes from peers or the Internet. Students need to decide when technology will help them and when it just gets in the way. They need to decide how best to produce something to show what they have learned. Will it be a movie? Maybe a photo essay?
2. Students need to **think critically**. They need to decide if information they find is credible. We can teach them some basic guidelines but they need to see who has created the information and get information from a number of different sources.
3. Students need to develop **creativity** skills. Don't give them a cookie-cutter assignment where you get back 25 projects exactly the same. That is a recipe, not a project.
4. Students need to learn to **work cooperatively** with others. Working by yourself on a computer is sometimes necessary but students should often work in groups, especially when creating something or critiquing each other.
5. Students need good **communication skills**. They need to communicate face to face with the person across the table and digitally with the person across the ocean. They need good writing and speaking skills. They should be able to create something and post it for a global audience. (blog, wiki, etc) (Make useful contributions to the Internet)
6. Students need **digital literacy**. They need to be taught ethics and responsible use. They need to have the confidence to learn new digital skills on their own. One thing that can be guaranteed...technology will change. Don't dwell on how to use all the features of PowerPoint or any other software. That technology may not exist in our student's future. Instead, give them the skills and confidence to figure out new hardware and software independently.

**Task: todaysmeet.com/?
In point form, tell us about your spring break.**

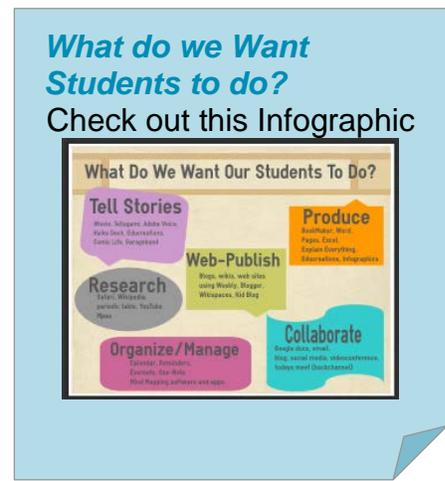


How are Tablets different?

1. Portable – Wireless, easily take them anywhere. Batteries last many hours.
2. Cameras – for still pictures or video. Can edit video on most tablets.
3. The need to print. These are not computers. If you need to print quite a bit then you are not using the tablet in the way it was intended. Can students hand in things electronically? Can they take a screenshot?
4. Management – We cannot lock down tablets the same way we can lock down a computer. If you can't trust the students, don't give them the tablet. We need to tell students they are not allowed to go in and adjust the settings. We need to tell them to police themselves and each other. We need to have discussions about ethical and responsible behaviour. Students need to make good decisions even when the teacher is not watching.

Task

1. Be Creative: Storytelling : Six word Story (Keynote) (A better way to use PowerPoint)
 - a. For Sale: baby shoes, never worn is the entirety of what has been described as a six-word novel, making it an extreme example of what is called flash fiction or sudden fiction. The story is often attributed to Ernest Hemingway. (Keynote example)
2. All About Me
 - a. Find or take pictures that are relevant to your life story. Make a collage with pictures and minimal words and be prepared to talk about your pictures.



Professional Development

Learning – real LEARNING starts when the learner wants it to start. It proceeds if the learner is interested and the information connects logically to existing knowledge. It is strengthened when mistakes are made or problems occur. It is reinforced when put into frequent, meaningful, real-world use.

No one can force a teacher to learn something new. The motivation must come from within the teacher. There must be a desire to learn or implement something new. Attending a couple of half day workshops with little self-directed learning will not lead to success. The majority of new information comes from the teacher exploring resources, talking to others, and trial and error. Learning happens best when the LEARNER takes responsibility of their own learning.

