

# Technology Review Summer '06

## Technology Use

When computers became available for home use, the Worthington community demanded the schools implement technology for student use. On several occasions portions of bond issues and/or levies were set aside for technology implementation. If the price tag to maintain up-to-date inventory were small, there would be little discussion as to whether we should be providing today's students with the capability to be competent technology users, information seekers, and communicators. Creating a learning environment where technology is a tool is critical for students to live, learn and thrive in today's technology driven world. The requests for additional equipment and specialized hardware and software continue to increase, and while prices have decreased, even maintaining our current inventory carries a hefty price tag.

A year ago, the state developed and released state technology standards. Currently the English Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies, and Technology curriculum areas are being reviewed by the elementary and middle school committees to align the technology standards with the graded courses of study. The elementary alignment of the technology standards will be a multi-year process, beginning with grades K, 3, 5 this summer. Additionally, the middle schools are working to document NCLB 8th grade student competencies. The high schools are revising courses to ensure alignment. As a result of the alignment of the state technology standards the district will have clearly identified the curriculum locations for technology integration.

Our staff development effort will continue to assign instructional technology support personnel to each school to work directly with teachers. Through the direct support by these individuals, teachers and administrators have opportunities to discuss and understand curriculum and technology integration issues that are specific to them and how it relates to district policies, processes, and direction. This direct support is the most effective method the district has utilized to provide technology professional development. Scheduling of support on their timeline, one-on-one support, time for discussion, assistance to outline the entire lesson including objectives and evaluation rubrics, and assistance in a computer lab with the class meets many of the needs required by teachers today. The one-on-one approach provides assistance to teachers and administrators on the specific issues at hand for them, while also providing an efficient and district aligned plan from a centralized approach.

Having up-to-date technology available for curriculum integration as well as the specific high school technology courses is important. As district technology ages we increasingly experience issues caused by the technology gap. For example, students create/complete projects at home but are unable to display the project at school, or students can only work on their projects at school. Software, from textbook purchases or to meet other needs, can't be utilized. Teachers find resources such as software or web sites that would assist in their teaching however do not operate due system requirements.

The approximate ages of elementary computers are 527, 8-10 yrs old, 1037, 5-7 yrs old, and 20- 5 yrs old. Many of these are now identified as vintage or obsolete by Apple.

Approximate age of computers at the secondary are 464 6-8 yrs old, 629 3-5 yrs old, 420 1-2 yrs old. The most recent computers were updates in the multimedia labs, video production lab and the placement of thin clients throughout the buildings.

There are currently 306 computers identified as management computers, which are 5 years or older. These include secretaries, guidance counselors, assistants in offices, custodial, maintenance, psychologists, speech pathologists, and administrator laptops. The psychologist and speech pathologist laptops are of immediate concern as most are identified as vintage by Apple meaning parts are no longer available from Apple.

### **Replacement Costs**

Replacement costs for a one-to one replacement of computers are listed below. There are no significant technology advances included (ie. wireless at all locations) in the costs and only \$150 per unit allocated for software.

Elementary - \$1,900,000  
Secondary - \$1,498,000  
Management - \$ 280,000