

Harvester Christian Academy Technology Plan

July 1, 2011 – June 30, 2012

Overview: Assessment of Current Services

The technology program at Harvester Christian Academy is an integral part of our academic program. We are using Windows microcomputers in labs, in the library, and a mobile Macintosh lab to reinforce our current curriculum in the classroom. Currently, there are approximately 125 computers in use campus-wide. For a current student body of 310 students K-12, more than 75 of these computers are for instructional purposes. Our students may use computers in the Harvester Christian Academy Library to have access to the Renaissance Place Accelerated Reader program to assess reading competency and other websites.

The school has a total of three digital cable lines to support the current user base. The Administrative Building and Elementary School has a second line installed to use as a backup in case of first line failure. The Middle School/High school building has a single line for use. Wireless technology has been implemented throughout the Administrative, Elementary, and Middle School/High School Buildings to connect our users. Renweb.com provides Harvester's school management software that includes school administration, grade book, and parent contact functions. Staff e-mail services are provided through Google Apps for Education and are hosted offsite by Google. In addition, the Renaissance Place Accelerated Reader program to assess student reading skills is hosted by Renlearn offsite. Harvester subscribes to the GALILEO service which provides digital access to Proquest, Ebsco, Encyclopedia Britannica Online, and the Georgia Digital Library. Galileo provides credible research resources for our students in elementary, middle, and high school grades.

Students in the upper elementary grades use tutorial programs in math, spelling, word recognition, reading comprehension, science, and social studies. Programs to develop logic/thinking skills are used extensively. The Trajectory curriculum by Global Academics, Inc. provides curriculum units taught in the computer lab in grades 4-6. The use of the word processing software contributes substantially to the success of creative writing classes. Keyboarding is addressed using online tutorials and practice activities.

Students in the high school use technology to aid learning in many areas. Microsoft Office applications are taught to middle school students. We offer optional classes and independent studies in advanced areas including HTML, Photoshop, digital movies, programming in Visual Basic, and web page design to high school students. Middle school and high school students also use instructional programs in language arts, social studies, French and Spanish, music, art, and mathematics. The school yearbook is published using Windows computers and desktop publishing software. Foreign language classes regularly use the Internet for researching newspapers and other materials published in the language of

study. A Weather Bug data collection unit has been installed in the Middle School/High School building to supplement our science classes in studies of the environment and climate. A computer lab is in place in the Middle/High School building to support classroom use of technology.

Our campus-wide network uses mainly wireless technology to power our computers' use of the internet.

Program Goals

- Technology is a necessary life skill that students need to use efficiently and effectively. Included in the list of technology skills is the use of digital media, the Internet and Web 2.0 tools.
- Technology should support the curriculum.
- Technology should serve as a resource for teachers and improve classroom instruction.
- Technology should make record keeping effective and efficient for teachers, staff, and school administration.

Recommendations for Future Growth

We recognize that Harvester Christian Academy is already doing many things well. Our focus must be on creating and maintaining a stable infrastructure and using it to its fullest potential. To continue to improve our technology program, we will focus on these critical areas:

- The mobile Macintosh computer lab is to be used to supplement curriculum instruction in the classroom.
- Our software library needs to be reviewed on a regular basis for content, relevancy, and for the latest updates.
- A more systematic plan is being developed for working with classes and subject areas.
- Staff development opportunities for faculty and staff need to continue at least at the current level.
- The network hardware and computers need to continue to be replaced and upgraded on a regular basis.
- Our infrastructure, including servers, switches, hubs and wireless points, needs to be evaluated and reassessed.

Professional Development

Mini workshops during the summer to review and enhance our teachers' knowledge of Renweb, our school management solution, are offered each year.

A computer curriculum based series of projects offer professional development opportunities for teachers each 9 weeks. Teachers are awarded 2 ACSI CEU's from the University of Richmond for successful completion of these projects.

The MS/HS principal and the Technology Coordinator oversee staff development. A schedule of staff development offerings and strategies is created for each school year and workshop attendance is recorded in a data base for SACS purposes.

Infrastructure

Elementary classrooms have two network computers to allow students research and Accelerated Reader opportunities in the classroom. All other classrooms have at least one network computer. In addition, there are several locations in both the elementary and high school buildings where additional network computers may be used by both students and faculty. Barracuda Web Filters provide internet filtering in both the Elementary and Middle School/High School buildings.

The Server and Communications Room is a secure location with limited access in the Administrative Building. Routine maintenance is performed monthly and major upgrades are performed in the summer. The primary server for the Access Security System and other network equipment is located in this area.

The technology staff consists of one full time person who provides instruction and maintains systems. The technology area consists of the main computer lab, one mobile computer lab, a computer lab in the Middle School/High School building, and other desktop units located in classrooms in both buildings.

A technology advisory committee has been put in place to provide guidance and direction on technology plans and projects. The committee will have one representative each from the school board, faculty, parents, and the technology coordinator.