Tracey Wong

Professor Unrath

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Technology Plan

Executive Summary

For the beginning of P.S. 63's new library, a technology plan should be implemented that supports NYS's new Common Core Standards, AASL 21st Century Learning Standards and increases reading by using multimedia formats. For the 21st century, Kindles are the ideal device. The library intends to instruct students in how to navigate and use Kindles to read, search for information online and organize files. Kindles are highly affordable, portable and allow students to access the web and read. It is highly recommended that they be purchased to allow P.S. 63 students to use 21st century technology, meet state standards, build stamina while reading with greater fluency. The benefit is that students will be adept and versatile at using modern technology while utilizing information literacy skills. The targeted audience are 1st to 5th grade students at PS 63, an inner city school in the south Bronx.

Justification

In accordance with NYS Information Literacy Standards, schools should "foster optimal use of its learning resources through strategies designed to help students develop information literacy - the ability to locate, evaluate, and use information in order to become independent learners. " Kindles will enhance student learning since it will "fuel the love of reading, while

creating another way to read and have fun" (Barack 59). And as stated in *AASL Standards for the 21st Century Learner Goals*, the following standards will be met:

- 1.1.2 Use prior and background knowledge as context for new learning.
- 1.1.6 Read, view, and listen for information presented in any format (e.g. textual, visual, media, digital) in order to make inferences and gather meaning.
- 2.1.2 Organize knowledge so that it is useful.
- 2.1.4 Use technology and other information tools to analyze and organize information.

Further, Kindles are perfect for school libraries since they answer the 3 P's of portability, participation and personalization for students (Barack 59). Also, children become excited learning how to read and being able to use Kindles. Students are able to maintain a greater degree of privacy in their book selection since titles are not obvious like books are. Kindles have software that allows text conversion to PDF files. This is particularly important since NYS has emphasized the important of nonfiction literature in the Common Core Standards. PDF files on social studies, science, music, art, political topics and current events can be converted for assigned or leisure reading. The more nonfiction literature students are exposed to will assist in them excelling on state tests.   School librarian, Kathy Parker believes Kindles help create a love of reading in children that otherwise would not have picked up a book (Barack 15).

> Mardis, who coauthored a white paper, "From Paper to Pixel:
> Digital Textbooks and Florida Schools," on bow to best incorporate
> digital textbooks into classrooms, cites various studies, including
> "Weaving the Literacy Web: Changes in Reading from Page to Screen"
> (http://bit.ly/brCLBF), which illustrates how comprehension changes
> when students read on the Web and the need for different strategics
> when using online tools with students.   (Barack 60)

Research shows students retain and comprehend at a higher rate when they use technology in reading.   To further expand their technology skills, students will be able to learn and utilize text to speech, font changes and better understand percentages since Kindles can display the percentage read in relation to total pages of the book.

Hardware

Currently, there is no hardware in place for the library, since it is a startup library for the 2011-2012 school year. An additional benefit to buying Kindles is that they allow access to the web, which is particularly attractive as there are no desktops in the library at this time.

	New Hardware	
6	Kindles (small)	Model 3G
6	Kindles (large)	Model DX
4	UBS data cables	SKU : KNDDAT001
	Current Hardware	
	None in place	
	Hardware in Place	
	None in place	

Software

Kindles were chosen, over other eReaders since there is software that converts PDF files to Kindle format.

1	PDFtoEpub http://www.pdftokindle.com/	Site license
150	Ebooks downloads - Amazon	Site license

Budget

Hardware			
Kindles 3G (Amazon.com)	9	$189 ea.	$1701
Kindles DX (Amazon.com)	6	$379 ea.	$2274
Software			
Ebook downloads (Amazon.com) PDFtoEpub	150	$3.99ea.	$599 0.00
Shipping and handling (Amazon.com)		included	0.00
Training	2 hours	$38	$76
Additional UBS plugs	4	$4.99	$19.96
Installation			0.00
Insurance	15	$30	$450
TOTAL			$5,119.96

Installation is relatively easy as each Kindle only needs to be charged.   And, each downloaded

title can be installed on up to six Kindles without incurring additional fees or download charges.

Timetable

May 2011	Research technology plan needs. Contact vendors for competitive prices.
May 2011	Apply for district budget funds. Apply for Donors Choose grants.
June 2011	Purchase Kindles and ebooks.
August 2011	Acquistion and initial testing period.
Sept. 2011	Train library staff. Train teachers. Two sessions for an hour each session.
Oct. 2011	Roll out Kindles. Train students in Kindle use and navigation.
Oct. 2011	Test and time two reading groups for evaluation .
Feb. 2012	Perform ending evaluation of two reading groups. Time groups. Write and present a report to administration.

Training

Training will be accomplished by using two periods a week of each library classes'

regularly scheduled time . Student training should take approximately three class periods.

On two professional development day in the fall, an hour long workshop will be given to teach staff members how to use Kindles as well. The librarian has been self-trained on the use of device through a personal Kindle owned.

Evaluation

In order to evaluate the effectiveness of using Kindles, the librarian will test two groups of children in order to determine the average reading time of the children in the group both prior to and after Kindle implementation. One group will be a control group of Kindle users. The other group will be random children of the same age, all non-Kindle users. This will provide a baseline score of reading time and also show how much the reading rate improves of the Kindle users. Further, a checklist will be developed to understand how students have improved their technology fluency skills as they navigate the handheld devices.

The Kindles PDF format conversion facilitates collaborating with the classroom teacher . Kindles will allow extending the content area that is being learned in the classroom, thus establishing an interdisciplinary connection across the curriculum and making learning more powerful and relevant to students' lives.

Works Cited

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