



## FY09 End of Year Report

The vision and planning of the Technology Task Force has been to support the mission statement of Wayland Public Schools as it relates to the use of technology and focuses on providing resources to meet the needs of our 21<sup>st</sup> century digital native learners. Our goal is to provide technology rich teaching and learning opportunities for all our lifelong learners, our staff and our students. Wayland Public Schools is committed to the effective integration and meaningful use of instructional and information technologies to support, enrich, and extend student learning throughout the curriculum.

### ***Network Upgrades***

The main goal for the FY09 School Year was to rebuild the networking infrastructure, which focused on the foundation on which we will continue to build and provide the technology resources needed for teaching, learning and the administration of our schools.

This year the network design has been re-engineered at the High School and Middle School and includes an upgrade to the hardware equipment (Juniper), the wired and wireless architecture (Aruba), along with a manageable secure and safe interface that is industry best practice and scalable to meet the needs of our growth. Bandwidth has increased through the installation of Verizon FiOS at both schools. Funding has been set aside to complete this upgrade at Claypit Hill, Happy Hollow and Loker Schools with a combination of the FY09 and FY10 capital budgets.

Before



After



*(Note: 8/09 – Project is complete. We have also built a Fiber backbone from the High School to Loker School and are working on connecting this to our network for FY10.)*

## ***21<sup>st</sup> Century Classrooms***

Through the generous donations of the Wayland Public Schools Foundation, we have continued to upgrade the classrooms with the integration of projectors, document cameras and interactive whiteboards for teaching and learning. Professional development on the use of software to integrate these technologies into the curriculum was delivered and is ongoing. School budgets supported the installation of this hardware.

## ***Professional Development***

An online District Professional Development initiative to enrich course offerings through blended learning using online resources has been offered through the development of the WPS Professional Development Wiki. This was also supported by the purchase of access to Atomic Learning online resources for all staff and students. Atomic Learning provides web-based software training for staff and students that supports 21<sup>st</sup> century skill integration. This blended learning initiative will continue with the launching of Wayland's first Digital Boot Camp to be held for staff the first two weeks of August 2009. This professional development initiative will continue through the FY10 school year. Another online initiative for next year was the Virtual High School initiative for Wayland High School students. Along with continuing online High School Moodle courses, we now have one teacher teaching a Virtual High School course. High School teachers collaborated on taking a Virtual High School course on 21<sup>st</sup> Century Teaching and Learning and all Instructional Technology Specialists collaborated to take a Web 2.0 online course.



## ***Other Initiatives***

NCLB Grants have been submitted; SIMS and EPIMS reporting has been completed; plans for launching iParent and elementary report cards in iPASS have begun, ERATE has been filed; a new online payment system for Athletic Fees and METCO has been launched. We hope to expand on the use of online payments next year for other school-related collections. A new system to support staff has been developed through the creation of our HELP DESK and an email and telephone support schedule of services.

## ***Curriculum Integration***

Technology integration into the curriculum has continued to grow through the support of the Instruction Technology Specialists in all schools using hardware and software resources. Along with continued initiatives as noted in last year's report, collaboration to bring online Web 2.0 initiatives, including podcasting, video, wiki's and various online resources has grown. We introduced SCRATCH programming to Grade School students. Scratch is a new programming language that makes it easy to create your own interactive stories, animations, games, music, and art -- and share your creations on the web. We have worked with staff to identify and/or upgrade software solutions for reading, math, science and SPED for FY10. Gizmos, online interactive simulations in science, was piloted in the Grade Schools. Quick Reads for reading fluency was piloted in the Grade Schools. The use of Promethean software for interactive whiteboards lessons

continues to grow, including the use of Activote and Activexpression learner response systems. To assist in curriculum integration and collaboration, teachers were invited to attend MassCUE's Annual Conference in the fall of 2008. (Massachusetts Computer User Educators) Technology integration will continue to grow through work with teachers, curriculum teams and Professional Development initiatives.

### ***FY10 Goals***

FY10 plans include a move to Google Apps for Education for Email which includes an out-sourced option for supporting our staff archiving and email system and allows us to encourage the use of Web 2.0 collaborative tools. We will be upgrading two major software applications in the District, Lexia Learning to a new partially online solution and our Library Management System from Follett to Destiny, both being web-based solutions. These upgrades are part of the ongoing plans for the FY10 data center upgrade. Currently that assessment includes the review of installing a dedicated fiber solution to connect all of our school buildings. We are communicating and collaborating with the Town to identify and implement a solution that would meet all our data upgrade needs for now and well into the future. Phase one completed in 2009 includes a Fiber backbone from the High School to Happy Hollow, Middle and Loker Schools and includes two Town Buildings. Phase two would include the Central Office, Claypit Hill School and the remaining Town Buildings.

Finally, we are reviewing cutting edge technologies, server virtualization, thin client computing, netbooks and tablet PCs to position Wayland Public Schools to offer the best 21<sup>st</sup> century computer resources for today and well into the future, current with best practices, and all that are scalable and manageable. The data center consolidation planned for FY10 provides a much greener solution for managing computer resources from a central location using substantially fewer servers and resources and becoming more efficient for maintenance and management.

### ***Short-term Initiatives (WPS Technology Report Goals)***

- "Firm up" the direction of the Technology Task Force
  - TTF provided positive support in crafting the direction for WPS technology initiatives in FY09. They will continue as an active group, with scheduled monthly meetings in FY10. New members are welcome and will be solicited at the start of the new school year. School based Technology Committees will collaborate with the WPS Technology Task Force.
- Update the technology plan based on findings from the technology audit.
  - The WPS Technology Plan has been updated and is posted online. It is a work that will be continually in progress through the efforts of the Technology Task Force and school-based Technology Committees.
- Pilot the roll-out of the latest version of Lexia Learning System's reading software, to show a curriculum-technology integration and work towards a more standardized and user-friendly (as opposed to security-friendly) system.
  - Lexia Online has been purchased and will be implemented in the FY10 school year.
  - Purchased computers and Quick Reads, a research based software fluency program, for Grade School Reading Teachers to use with students
- Continue to provide, and improve on, professional development for teachers.

- Launched a Professional Development Wiki for WPS (<http://wayland-pd.wetpaint.com/>) that promotes online resources for learning.
- Implemented the use of Atomic Learning, an online training resource for all staff and students that provides software training and curriculum resources.
- Prepared for Wayland's First Annual Digital Boot Camp, to be held every year during the first two weeks of August (FY10 – Google Apps for Education)
- Provide laptop computers for teachers who don't have either a district or personal laptop, and allow those with personal laptops to access as much of the system as possible without creating security problems.
  - Purchased laptops for High School, Middle School, and Loker teachers. Re-distributed MAC laptops for Happy Hollow and Claypit Hill Teachers.
- Expand the deployment of appropriate projection/display technology in classrooms.
  - Continued through the generous donations of the Wayland Public Schools Foundation and through local school technology budgets.
- Deploy technology to ease administrative tasks: for instance, assessment and grading.
  - Continued use of iPASS Online Grading Program
  - Supported pilot for period attendance at the High School
  - Prepared for the launch of iParent in FY10
  - Began process for Elementary Report Cards in iPASS
- Continue to replace obsolete technology on an annual basis.
  - Recycled/removed 135 iMAC Computers
  - Prepared new MAC images for 8 different MAC architectures
  - Purchased 75 Teacher Laptops
  - Planned for purchase of approximately 325 student computers (WYSE Thin Clients or Dell 2100 Netbook computers)
- Continually review the technology plan and the technology audit for other key items.
  - Technology Task Force Initiative
  - Scheduled Meetings FY10: September 22, October 27, December 1 (Jan-May TBD)