



TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

COMMITTEE CHARGE: PROVIDE COORDINATION FOR THE DISTRICT'S TECHNOLOGY INITIATIVES, AND ENHANCE AND FORMALIZE PROTOCOLS FOR VIRTUAL LEARNING. THIS INCLUDES PLANNING FOR A POSSIBLE RETURN TO DISTANCE LEARNING FOR THE ENTIRE DISTRICT, IF REQUIRED BECAUSE OF PUBLIC HEALTH CONDITIONS.

TECHNOLOGY EQUITY

OUR GOAL TO PROVIDE CONTINUITY OF LEARNING REQUIRES THAT ALL KENILWORTH STUDENTS HAVE ACCESS TO THE TECHNOLOGICAL TOOLS THEY NEED TO SUCCEED. THIS IS ONE OF THE CORE VALUES THAT ANCHORED KENILWORTH'S REOPENING PLAN.

- Kenilworth will survey K-6 families to determine who needs a device and/or assistance in acquiring internet access.
- The district will distribute Chromebooks for use at school and home to all students in Grades 7-12. This 1:1 program was launched to ensure equitable access to computer-based learning.
- The district hired three summertime Information Technology workers to help prepare for the 1:1 deployment and necessary upgrades.
- Distribution will occur before schools start so as not to interfere with instructional time.
- Information about the distribution will be communicated to parents and students.
- Students will be required to view instructions on caring for the Chromebooks and appropriate device use. The district will be able to verify whether the material has been viewed.

Many network upgrades will be performed.

- Switches
- Latest wireless technology
- Additional wireless coverage areas to handle more devices
- Internet speeds are expected to be twice as fast
- Web-filtering software on all Chromebooks will comply with the Children's Internet Protection Act and will work at school and home

Several apps that are useful for learning will be pre-installed. Additional apps can be installed remotely as needed.

- Teachers will receive professional development on software and hardware that students are using.
- An inventory system will be implemented to keep track of Chromebook assignments and which devices need support or are out for repair.

CHROMEBOOK LABS AND CARTS

THE PREVIOUS SYSTEM OF UTILIZING COMPUTER LABS AND CARTS HAS BEEN MODIFIED FOR SAFETY PRECAUTIONS, AND AS A RESULT OF THE 1:1 CHROMEBOOK DISTRIBUTION PROGRAM FOR BREARLEY MIDDLE SCHOOL AND HIGH SCHOOL.

- Brearley Computer Labs, with the exception of those used for courses such as graphic arts that require higher-level processors, will no longer be needed and will be dismantled. The former labs can help the district meet new demands for space in the buildings. Brearley students will use their district-provided Chromebooks at school as well as at home.
- Twelve Chromebook carts located at Brearley will be moved to Harding Elementary.
- Grades K-6 at Harding will work on Chromebooks that are brought to their classrooms on carts. The computers will be limited to use by one classroom per day. Students will be directed to wipe down the computers prior to placing them back in the cart. Carts will be returned to a central location where they can undergo a disinfecting procedure during the night.
- The 6th grade will work on the same new Chromebooks as Brearley students, so they'll be better prepared for the transition to middle school.

DISTANCE LEARNING TECHNOLOGY

SURVEY RESPONSES FROM PARENTS, STUDENTS AND STAFF PROVIDED VALUABLE FEEDBACK ABOUT THE SUCCESSES OF LAST SPRING'S DISTANCE LEARNING EFFORTS -- AS WELL AS AREAS THAT COULD USE IMPROVEMENT. THAT HELPED PREPARE THE DISTRICT AS A WHOLE FOR MORE VIRTUAL LEARNING, AND FOR A POSSIBLE RETURN TO DISTRICT-WIDE DISTANCE LEARNING IF REQUIRED.

- A Technology Facilitator was hired to train teachers on online educational tools.
- Educational management platforms will play an essential role in distance learning, and in communication among teachers, families and students. The district will use Seesaw for Grades K-2, and Google Classroom for Grades 3-12.
- Resources such as Study Island, Think Central, Flipgrid, Kami, Quizizz, and Google Apps for Education will be made available to students.
- Live-streaming will be used as a tool to support students who will receive full-remote learning. Webcams have been purchased for each classroom so that teachers can be seen better by students receiving instruction virtually. Webcams will only show the teacher to maintain student privacy.
- Existing document cameras -- used to present and share documents online -- can be used with any video meeting system.
- Teachers will be provided with ongoing professional development both in-person and online.
- To prepare for a potential pivot to 100% distance learning - which would come from public health authorities, likely with little notice - we are developing a Distance Learning Guidebook. It will outline how we will embed more live instruction, structured office hours, and additional district, teacher, student and parent responsibilities if the district is ordered to enter full remote learning mode.