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Technology Content Standards

The State of Ohio Board of Education recently approved Technology Academic Content Standards. Technology encompasses more than computers and effective use of technology needs to be integrated across all subject areas.

The Ohio Technology Standards deal with 3 types of literacy:

Computer and Multimedia Literacy - refers to the nuts and bolts of using technology in appropriate ways for productivity and communication.

Information Literacy – an important part of Library instruction, deals with the acquisition, interpretation and dissemination of information. Although, the technology standards emphasis on-line research, that should only be part of a research strategy worked out with your Library/Technology Resource Teacher.

Technological Literacy – deals with the application of technology to solve problems. Although emphasizing an integrated approach in math and science, technological solutions are a part of all curricular areas and an important part of most careers.

There are seven standards:

1. Nature of Technology

Students develop an understanding of technology, its characteristics, scope, core concepts and relationships between technologies and other fields. Students learn that technology extends human potential by allowing people to do things more efficiently than they would otherwise be able to do.

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What new communications technology “serves to unite peoples, and thus to awaken a larger human sympathy.”?

It is “one of the reconstructive forces in society, a practical regenerator.. It is hardly necessary to comment upon its immense value to our present civilization, and the great changes it is silently and steadily working in conjunction with other forces of progress in the world’s modes of thought and custom, all pointing to the days of enlightenment when the race will look back with mingled contempt and pity upon the hideous moral slaveries, the wretched social isolation, ... the bigotry, ... and other indecencies and unscientific conditions of present times.”

See the back of this document for more information on this miraculous new technology.

National Technology Standards:

Information Literacy Standards for Student Learning
www.ala.org/aasl/ip_implementation.html

National Educational Technology Standards for Students
cnets.iste.org/students/s_stands.html

Standards for Technological Literacy: Content for the Study of Technology
www.iteawww.org/TAA/Publications/STL/STLMainPage.htm

Ohio Technology Standards:

www.ode.state.oh.us/academic_content_standards/acstechnology.asp

CH-UH Technology Standards:

www.chuh.org/technology/

At the same time our schools are expected to integrate these technology literacy skills into the curriculum, our school district is being forced to make tough budgetary choices that may decimate the teaching resource staff that has been facilitating this integration. Creative and cost effective means of supporting technological solutions must be part of the design of 21st Century organizations.

"Uniting the Peoples of the World"

The description was written about the electro-magnetic telegraph in 1873! The telegraph was the first technology that allowed real time communication over great distances. Writing after the devastating U.S. Civil War, the author had high hopes for its ability to improve the human race.

The complete description from 1873 is available at www.railsandtrails.com/Industries1873 -- as well as the history of and expectations for other new technologies of the latter half of the 19th Century.

Similar statements have been made about new technologies in our age, especially the Internet. How will we make use of the technologies available to us? Perhaps you and your students can be part of the solution.

There are a number of websites that facilitate communication between classrooms around the world. Most have pre-planned projects and experienced teachers to work with.

Intercultural Classroom E-Mail Connections
www.teaching.com/iecc

KidLink
www.kidlink.org

Global SchoolNET
www.gsn.org

Epals Classroom Exchange
www.epals.com

We also have a local connection to schools throughout the world. Cleveland Heights resident Bob Chesheir, President of the private foundation, Third World Books, sends books to schools around the world that cannot afford to purchase them. Your students can help with this project, perhaps by recommending appropriate books and communicating with the classrooms that receive them.

Ohio Technology Standards *continued from page 1*

2. Technology and Society Interaction

Students recognize interactions among society, the environment and technology, and understand technology's relationship with history.

3. Technology for Productivity Applications

Students learn the operations of technology through the usage of technology and productivity tools.

4. Technology and Communication Applications

Students use an array of technologies and apply design concepts to communicate with multiple audiences, acquire and disseminate information and enhance learning.

5. Technology and Information Literacy

Students engage in information literacy strategies, use the Internet, technology tools and resources, and apply information-management skills to answer questions and expand knowledge.

6. Design

Students will apply a number of problem-solving strategies demonstrating the nature of design, the role of engineering and the role of assessment.

7. Designed World

Students understand how the physical, informational and bio-related technological systems* of the designed world are brought about by the design process.

There are benchmarks for each standard in grades k-2, 3-5, 6-8 and 9-12. For example, the following Standard #4 benchmarks relate to the communications projects suggested in the left-hand column.

K-2 Participate in group projects and learning activities using technology communications.

3-5 Use technology communications to participate in on-line group collaborative interactive projects and activities.

6-8 Select appropriate technology communication tools and design collaborative interactive projects and activities to communicate with others.

9-12 Identify communication needs, select appropriate communication tools and design collaborative interactive projects and activities to communicate with others, incorporating emerging technologies.

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