Marietta City Schools

Technology Plan

2018 - 2021

Introduction:

Marietta City Schools (MCS) is a Georgia Charter System that serves 8,800 students at eight elementary choice schools, one of which is a Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) Magnet school; one middle school, one sixth-grade school, and one high school. MCS is the first International Baccalaureate (IB) World School District in Georgia. As an IB World School District, MCS offers the optional IB Primary Years Program for grades K-5, IB Middle Years Program for all students in grades 6-10, and the IB Diploma Program and Career-Related Program as an option for high school students in grades 11-12. It is one of only a few school systems nationwide able to provide the full IB (K-12) continuum. MCS is also home to one National Blue Ribbon School: Marietta Center for Advanced Academics; one National School of Excellence: A.L. Burruss Elementary; and five Georgia Schools of Excellence: A.L. Burruss Elementary, Marietta Center for Advanced Academics, West Side Elementary, Marietta Middle School, and Marietta High School. MCS has consistently ranked among the top 15 percent of public school systems nationally for the past several years and has earned numerous recognitions.

As an innovative school system, MCS prides itself on ensuring that all students achieve high levels of academic success and are prepared to be college and career ready upon graduation. Providing students with a technology-rich learning experience is critical for them to obtain the skills necessary for global competitiveness. To this end, the thoughtful use and instructional integration of technology provides staff, students and families with the tools needed to maximize the learning environment and to ultimately *Graduate Marietta*. This technology plan serves as a guide for the implementation and support of technology throughout all schools in the district. The purpose of the plan is to assist district and school leadership with the evaluation of the current technology reality across schools and to develop a strategic plan to extend infrastructure, access and support that enhances the successful integration of technology in instruction and learning.

Overview:

The technology improvement process is driven by three important areas: infrastructure, access/experience, and support. *Infrastructure* includes the hardware and software needed to meet the technology goals of the district. *Access/Experience* includes expanding opportunities for students, parents, and school personnel to interact with technology in meaningful ways. *Support* includes the support systems required to facilitate high levels of access by administrators, teachers, and students. While infrastructure, access/experience, and support are separated in this plan for organizational and monitoring purposes, the intent is to develop processes that are complementary.

Key Areas:

Infrastructure

Value Statement:

We believe a reliable and efficient infrastructure is necessary to support an effective and innovative learning environment. This allows for purposeful and strategic decision making regarding access, experience and support.

Commitments:

- Efficient processes
- Safe and secure environment for all stakeholders
- Responsible budgeting practices
- Ongoing review and evaluation of systems and equipment

Current Reality:

- Facilities infrastructure updates (secured cabinets, network wiring & supporting equipment, battery back-ups, etc.)
- Updates to central core systems (servers, storage, switches, software, etc.)
- Wireless network system upgrades - equipment and supporting systems
- Wide Area Network (WAN) upgrades – additional bandwidth
- Continuation network switch replacements – as equipment becomes end-of-life (EOL)
- Continued use of cloud-based software services (SaaS)
- Updates/patches to operating systems as they are released
- Continued work to integrate technology platforms: Student Information System (SIS) and Learning Management System (LMS)

Moving Forward:

- Expand/enhance core systems as enrollment and usage increases
- Continue to upgrade facilities to centralized VoIP telephone and messaging system
- Continue to provide fast internet access
- Continue to expand wired and wireless Local Area Network (LAN) system–system upgrades as new equipment and standards are released
- Continue Wide Area Network (WAN) expansion and upgrades
- Expanded integration of SIS with LMS and Student Assessment System
- Define replenishment/replacement and publish the district plan for replenishment/replacement of core systems (servers, storage, switches, etc.) and end user devices
- Continue to leverage state and federal e-rate funding offerings
- Expand security camera systems in schools (additional cameras and servers)
- Facilities infrastructure updates are ongoing (secured cabinets, network wiring & supporting equipment, battery back-ups, etc.)
- Investigate the possibility to expand IT Team: consider creating dual role-IT and hardware/software training

Access and Experience

Value Statement:

We believe equitable access to current, relevant technology for students and staff helps to provide engaging learning experiences, and access to user-friendly platforms for parents that provides timely communication and information about student progress.

Commitments:

- An academic return on investment (ROI)
- Innovative instructional practices
- Increased access to technology at school and home

Current Reality:

- Continue the refresh of student and teacher devices
- Take-home opportunities (pilots occurred at Hickory Hills, MSGA, MHS)
- Bring-Your-Own-Technology (BYOT) implemented at some schools
- LMS pilot launch of itslearning
- Access to curriculum and instruction resources on the LMS platform—gifted course, subject area content, assistive technology, etc.
- Student and parent access to the SIS
- SIS used as a central repository for student records
- Use of an online assessment platform (Performance Plus)
- Reallocation of funds--school flexibility to acquire technology programs and tools

Moving Forward:

- Complete a full audit of what schools have and what they are using/and how
- Continue the refresh of student and teacher devices (define and publish refresh cycle info/remove old devices when inventory is refreshed)
- Investigate the possibility of take-home opportunities as requested by schools
- Distribute system BYOT guidelines and procedures to schools interested in BYOT
- Develop common bookmarks and extensions and create a process for approval
- Work toward creating a single access point for students and parents—LMS and SIS integration
- Create explicit and consistent expectations/opportunities for the LMS
- Move teacher webpages from SIS (Aspen) to the LMS to increase student and parent access
- Acquire a new assessment platform that is more flexible and user-friendly
- Continue funding to allow school flexibility to acquire technology programs and tools

Support

Value Statement:

We believe that providing reliable and consistent technology support and technology learning opportunities for staff, students, and families is necessary to develop our students into digital, responsible citizens.

Commitments:

- Responsive and reliable support
- Appropriate staffing
- Relevant and timely professional development
- Continuous feedback from stakeholders to plan and implement professional development and best practices

Current Reality:

- Centralized help desk for the SIS
- School flexibility through charter—implementation of technology enhanced roles to support building level technology integration
- Technology instructional matrix developed by media specialists
- Optional, afterschool professional development
- Office of Academic Achievement staff available to work in schools in an effort to provide various levels of instructional technology support
- Online and blended learning opportunities for staff—reading and gifted endorsements

Moving Forward:

- Redefine the role of the media specialists and how they support instructional technology
- Investigate the possibility of increasing instructional technology support
- Work with Principals to provide options to require professional learning when new technology and programs roll out and look for opportunities with job-embedded and blended PL
- Continue centralized help desk for the SIS
- Technology staff to visit/support other schools in the district when the need arises
- Continue implementation of technology enhanced roles to support building level technology integration—seek to increase opportunity in schools
- Systemic sharing of instructional technology matrix (developed by media specialists)
- Increase instructional technology professional learning opportunities in the district—including opportunities for new staff members in July/August and after school options
- Investigate the possibility to increase technology support and coaching available in the district
- Increase technology education for students including Common Sense Media tools used for digital citizenship

Timeline:

FY 2018-19:

Infrastructure:

- Continued expansion of security camera systems in schools (added cameras and servers)
- Continue Wide Area Network (WAN) expansion and upgrades (ongoing)
- Complete full audit of what schools have and what they are using/and how
- Define the replenishment/replacement and publish the district plan for replenishment/replacement of core systems (servers, storage, switches, etc.) and end user devices
- Refresh of identified core systems and end user devices
- Continue the implementation of a single, digital access point for students and parents--integration with the LMS and SIS
- Continue to leverage state and federal e-rate funding offerings (ongoing)

Access/Experience:

- Continue the refresh of student and teacher devices
- Investigate the possibility of take-home opportunities as requested by schools
- Develop common bookmarks and extensions and create a process for approval
- Work toward creating a single access point for students and parents—LMS and SIS integration
- Develop implementation plan for LMS and create explicit and consistent expectations/opportunities for the LMS
- Implement phase I of LMS district roll-out plan—for example: move teacher webpages from SIS (Aspen) to the LMS to increase student and parent access
- Acquired a new assessment platform that is more flexible and user-friendly
- Continue funding to allow school flexibility to acquire technology programs and tools

Support:

- Continue centralized help desk for the SIS
- Technology staff to visit/support other schools in the district when the need arises
- Systemic sharing of instructional technology matrix (developed by media specialists)
- Increase optional, afterschool professional development that includes instructional technology
- Redefine the role of the media specialists and how they support instructional technology
- Investigate the possibility of increasing instructional technology support personnel
- Work with Principals to provide options to require professional learning when new technology and programs roll out and look for opportunities with job-embedded and blended PL

FY 2019-20:

Infrastructure:

- Increase the number of student devices as needed (ongoing)
- Review/revise replenishment plan for core systems (servers, storage, switches, software, etc.)
- Refresh of identified core systems
- Review/revise replenishment plan for end user devices (computers, laptops, Chromebooks, tablets, etc.)
- Refresh of identified end user devices
- Continue to provide fast internet access
- Continued expansion of wired and wireless Local Area Network (LAN) system – system upgrades as new equipment and standards are released

Access/Experience:

- Continue the refresh of student and teacher devices
- Investigate the need to increase the number of student devices (Chromebooks)
- Increase take home opportunities as requested by schools
- Distribute system BYOT guidelines and procedures to schools interested in BYOT
- Implement phase II of LMS district roll-out plan—for example: push out curriculum pages for identified courses
- If new assessment platform is acquired, implement phase II of district roll-out plan
- Continue funding to allow school flexibility to acquire technology programs and tools

Support:

- Continue centralized help desk for the SIS
- Technology staff to visit/support other schools in the district when the need arises
- Increase optional, afterschool professional development that includes instructional technology
- Increase instructional technology professional learning opportunities in the district
- Increase technology education for students including Common Sense Media tools used for digital citizenship

FY 2020-21:

Infrastructure:

- Increase the number of student devices (ongoing)
- Review/revise replenishment plan for core systems (servers, storage, switches, software, etc.)
- Refresh of identified core systems
- Review/revise replenishment plan for end user devices (computers, laptops, Chromebooks, tablets, etc.)
- Refresh of identified end user devices
- Continue to provide fast internet access
- Continued expansion of wired and wireless Local Area Network (LAN) system – system upgrades as new equipment and standards are released

Access/Experience:

- Continue the refresh of student and teacher devices
- Investigate the need to increase the number of student devices (Chromebooks)
- Increase take home opportunities as requested by schools
- Implement phase III of LMS district roll-out plan

Support:

- Continue centralized help desk for the SIS
- Technology staff to visit/support other schools in the district when the need arises
- Increase optional, afterschool professional development that includes instructional technology
- Continue instructional technology professional learning opportunities in the district

Summary:

Having a robust, solid, and secure technology infrastructure is vital in today's learning environment, and it is enriched by providing teachers and students the ability to work and learn uninhibited by technical constraints. Providing students with a technology-rich learning experience is critical for them to obtain the skills necessary for global competitiveness. To this end, the thoughtful use and instructional integration of technology provides staff, students, and families with the tools needed to maximize the learning environment. This technology plan serves as a guide for the implementation and support of technology throughout all schools in the district.

2017-18 Teacher Leader and Administrator Committee Members

Dr. Belinda Walters-Brazile	Deputy Superintendent
Dr. Jennifer Hernandez	Executive Director of Academic Achievement
Mr. David Digiovanni	Director of Information Technology and Systems
Dr. Dayton Hibbs	Principal (MMS)
Dr. Dan McGuire	Principal (West Side)
Mrs. Lucena Ross	Assistant Principal (MHS)
Mr. John Pierson	Partner-In-Education and MCS Parent
Mrs. Celis Hartley-Lewis	District Science Coordinator
Mr. Rob Pinto	Instructional Coach (MSGA and MMS)
Mrs. Amy Crandall	Media Specialist (MCAA)
Mrs. Cindy Farr	Media Specialist (Burruss)
Mrs. Wendy Locke	Teacher and Enhanced Technology Role (MHS)
Mrs. Melanie Wilson	Teacher (Hickory Hills)

2018-19 Principal and District Leader

Committee Members

Dr. Belinda Walters-Brazile	Deputy Superintendent
Dr. Jennifer Hernandez	Executive Director of Academic Achievement
Mr. Erick Hofstetter	Assistant Superintendent of Operations
Mrs. Michele Bealing-Sales	Assistant Superintendent of Special Services
Mr. Jason Waters	BOE Chairman
Mr. Alan Levine	BOE
Mr. Torey Bradley	Director of Information Technology and Systems
Mr. Jeff Mosley	Principal (Dunleith)
Mr. Corey Lawson	Principal (MSGA)
Dr. Jillian Johnson	Principal (Burruss)
Mrs. Franchesca Lane-Warren	6-12 ELA Coordinator
Mrs. Cathy Paige	K-12 Social Studies Coordinator
Ms. Luz Montanez	K-5 ELA Coordinator
Mrs. Susie Throop	K-12 Science Coordinator
Mrs. Tynisha Robinson	K-12 Math Coordinator
Mr. Rob Pinto	K-12 Technology Coordinator

*All Principals were surveyed to provide feedback to inform the committee's work.