

# Pleasantdale School District 107

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With the convenience of instructional technology increasing and the cost decreasing, we are seeing technologies of all types becoming commonplace in all classrooms. We have found that students are using a wide variety of technologies outside of the classroom, and teachers across the world are looking to capture that interest. Likewise, instructional technologies allow teachers additional resources with which to teach their students. As our world flattens and we hurtle into the information age, we have a responsibility to ensure that our students know how to use these tools and use them responsibly. This will ensure that our students are future-ready.

Throughout this school year, we have engaged in critical conversations with our teachers and parents about the direction of instructional technology in Pleasantdale. In addition, teachers have experimented with new software and hardware in their classrooms via two structured technology pilot programs.

The first is a Google Apps for Education (GAFE) pilot program. GAFE is a cloud based computer program that mirrors the Microsoft suite. This program allows students to collaborate in new ways. Additionally, this program streamlines the student workflow, allowing teachers to work with students and provide feedback in new and exciting ways. All students and teachers in fourth and fifth grade have been given GAFE accounts and are using this tool on a regular basis.

Our fifth grade teachers have also decided to implement a modified 1:1 pilot program. In this program, each student is assigned a device to use throughout the day but is left at school. The plan will evolve in the third trimester when students will their devices with them at the end of the day so they can complete assignments at home. Additionally, we have distributed 10 MacBook computers to staff. The goal of this pilot program is to allow teachers to compare PCs and Apple products and give feedback to the administration.

Based on the early success of the GAFE pilot, we are planning on providing GAFE accounts to all teachers and students. This rollout will be accompanied by a robust professional development plan. Additionally, we are planning on providing every fourth and fifth grader with a device (either an iPad or a Chromebook) and piloting a 1:1 program across both grade levels. The goal of this program will be to identify the device that best meets the needs of our students and teachers.

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## Mission

*Ensure that each student is a passionate learner empowered with the Academic and social skills to responsibly choose and excel in life pursuits.*

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Over the course of the year, we will collect data from teachers, students, and parents to ensure that the tools we provide are enhancing student learning. In order to ensure that these devices can be used to their full potential, we will follow the recommendations of our recent technology audit and begin to replace our aging technology infrastructure. The infrastructure changes will be phased in over the course of several years, which will allow the district to budget for these improvements as well as provide us with internet services to meet our current needs. Finally, we will use much of the technology plan that was created by teachers and staff two school years ago. This is a comprehensive plan that provides appropriate recommendations and gives guidance based on teacher and community feedback.

This is an exciting time for Pleasantdale School district, and we are looking forward to implementing a careful and thoughtful plan to improve teaching and learning in our schools.

#### Key Takeaways:

- Teachers and students in fourth and fifth grade have been piloting Google Apps for Education.
- The district will expand the Google Apps for Education pilot program to all students and teachers next school year.
- We will pilot a 1:1 program with Chromebooks and iPads in fourth and fifth grade next year.
- The aging infrastructure at both schools will need to be addressed.

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