

WHAT DOES FUTURE READY MEAN?

Picture seniors now in high school who will graduate at the end of this school year. If you had asked them when they were first graders what they wanted to be when they grew up, it's a very safe bet that not a single one said "I want to work for Facebook."



That's not because Facebook is not a great place to work.

It's because Facebook did not yet exist.

And now it has emerged as a company and as a social, political and economic force in their world.

In the time it takes a child to navigate grades K through 12, their world is going to change, sometimes radically. In Beaverton schools, a District-wide effort called Future Ready is re-imagining teaching and learning experiences with that in mind.

There are three moving parts to this effort: Innovation in the classroom, re-imagining library spaces, and investment in new technology.

CLASSROOM INNOVATION

Amy Calkins at Bethany Elementary discovered that an iPad app called Seesaw makes it easy to create and share meaningful stories using words, photos and video. By integrating Seesaw into her teaching, she's not just using some new tech, she's using the technology to amplify learning about literacy, communication, and digital citizenship. Her students master technology not as a goal, but as a means to personalize their projects to their interests and learning style.

The day before Thanksgiving break, Whitford Middle School teacher Nicole Langton had a classroom full of kids trapped in time. To get back to 2015, they needed to find clues, solve puzzles, and search the internet in order to open five locks on a box that held the key to their safe return. They discovered how communication and teamwork go together with knowledge and research skills to solve a difficult challenge as a group. Along the way, they learned that one of their classmates knew Morse code -- a key to solving one of the puzzles that would unlock their Breakout Box.

Ideas like this are sparked and made possible by a strategic commitment by the District to rapid and ongoing professional development for teachers and staff. A team of Innovation Strategists, District Librarians and Digital Curriculum Experts in the Future Ready Program collaborate to support schools as they reinvent teaching and learning for the digital age.

In October 2015, District Innovation Strategists and the nationally acclaimed EdTechTeam produced a two-day learning event called the Future Ready Summit. Over 800 teachers and staff chose from nearly 100 workshops and learned how cutting edge thinking is transforming classrooms and instruction around the country. Hands-on sessions gave teachers a chance to learn while doing and to try out new ideas. Many teachers took what they learned and immediately used it in their classroom.

LITT: A NEW ROLE TRANSFORMING THE SCHOOL LIBRARY

At Highland Park Middle School, Wayne Grimm is spearheading the transformation of the library to be an interactive learning media space and literacy hub. In two short months, the school shifted the computer spaces in the library to be more interactive and user friendly and redefined the use of technology in the library. Their plan will feature the library as a hub for collaborative learning at the school.

In September 2015, fifteen Future Ready pilot schools welcomed new team members like Wayne, called Library and Instructional Technology Teachers (LITT). This new role will be central to re-imagining the school library as a dynamic hub for literacy and learning. The LITTs are licensed teachers with expertise in literacy, library media and classroom technology integration. Collaborating with District librarians and school staff, they promote literacy and classroom innovation at the building level in their school community.

Phased over the next three years, LITTs will be hired and placed in every high school, middle school, and elementary school in the District.

TECHNOLOGY UPGRADES AND INTEGRATION

To be Future Ready, our school networks need to support more mobile devices and faster access to the world of online learning. Kevin Rebitzke, a District network engineer, spent the long, hot summer of 2015 leading a team that was sweating the details in the attics and ceilings of schools around Beaverton. The team installed 1800 network data drops, upgraded network switches and installed 868 wireless access points. Work is underway to complete high capacity network installations at all District facilities by early spring of 2016.

In the 2015 thru 2018 school years, the District will order and purchase notebook (Chromebook) and tablet (iPad) computers for every school. Each school will choose the technology that best meets their needs; the fifteen Future Ready pilot schools have placed their orders and will take delivery in the Spring of 2016. High schools and middle schools will get Chromebooks while Elementary and K-8 schools will get a mix of iPads and Chromebooks.

THE MISSION OF FUTURE READY

It's important that we're bringing computers and iPads to kids in a classroom. But the bigger picture is that we understand how learning is changing and how teaching can and will change to make the learning experience better for every kid.

Every. Single. Kid.

We are committed to this because we know that the future world must never lack for people who can imagine and design and create, while it also needs people who can make and fix and sing and dance and paint. But in the future, any of these may be done in ways we have not yet imagined.

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.beaverton.k12.or.us/depts/tchlrn/future-ready/Pages/default.aspx>

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