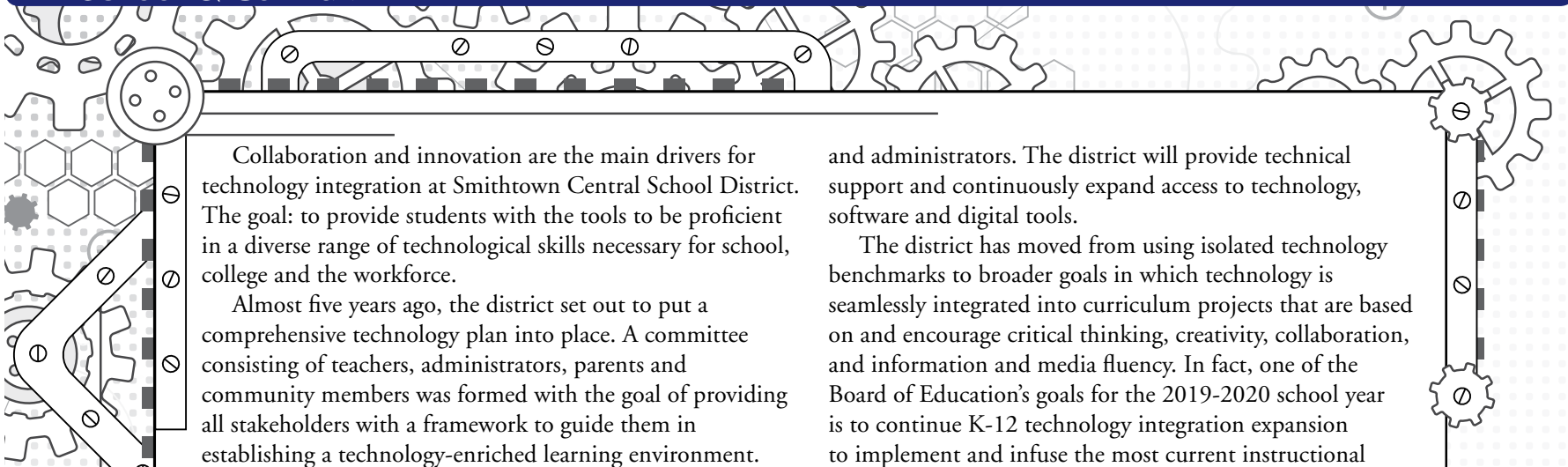




DIGEST

SCHOOL & COMMUNITY



TECHNOLOGY:
Collaboration, Integration and Innovation

Collaboration and innovation are the main drivers for technology integration at Smithtown Central School District. The goal: to provide students with the tools to be proficient in a diverse range of technological skills necessary for school, college and the workforce.

Almost five years ago, the district set out to put a comprehensive technology plan into place. A committee consisting of teachers, administrators, parents and community members was formed with the goal of providing all stakeholders with a framework to guide them in establishing a technology-enriched learning environment.

Under this plan, teachers use technology to foster a global awareness and to model technological capabilities with the goal of preparing students to become responsible digital citizens. Technology is incorporated across the curriculum to support and enhance learning, and used to foster 21st-century skills.

In this way, students learn to apply information resources and their academic skills to solve real-world problems and engage in activities that combine educational technology skills and relevant curricular content. They learn to effectively use technology as a tool for problem-solving, creativity, communication and productivity to meet the changing demands of life and the workplace.

Using a three-pronged approach – which includes students, administrators and teachers – the district is committed to expanding technology integration to implement and infuse the most current instructional technology. The district’s technology integration vision states:

- Students must be competent and confident using diverse technological skills in a wide range of settings. They must have regular access to technology in their classrooms so they become proficient in the use of technology.
- Teachers play a critical role in developing and nurturing technology skills. By promoting ongoing opportunities for collaboration and innovation, teachers foster their students’ use of problem-solving in a technological world.
- Administrators must support instructional technology integration best practices. District administration is committed to providing ongoing, sustained staff development to develop technological fluency for teachers

and administrators. The district will provide technical support and continuously expand access to technology, software and digital tools.

The district has moved from using isolated technology benchmarks to broader goals in which technology is seamlessly integrated into curriculum projects that are based on and encourage critical thinking, creativity, collaboration, and information and media fluency. In fact, one of the Board of Education’s goals for the 2019-2020 school year is to continue K-12 technology integration expansion to implement and infuse the most current instructional technology, including greater student and teacher access to devices, department-specific staff development and increased instructional software access and support.

One initiative for the 2019-2020 school year is the addition of instructional technology coaches at the middle schools. These coaches are available to help their colleagues use technology in the classroom. This can include everything from lesson planning to modeling technology integration best practices to co-teaching a lesson. The coaches also provide professional development opportunities.

Kristen Andriaccio, director of professional learning and student intervention services, explained the coaching initiative is designed to help teachers integrate technology to enhance teaching and learning. The technology integration coaches have created opportunities for peer observations, invitational workshops, ongoing collaboration and one-on-one coaching support.

“We help to enhance the instructional experience by modeling lessons and doing demos – and pushing into the classrooms,” said Dr. Katie DiGrigorio, one of the instructional technology coaches. “This type of instruction on a peer-to-peer level really gives the teachers an increased level of comfort because they are working with a colleague. The goal is really to see how teachers can enhance their lessons using technology. We want to empower teachers to use technology and programs. We want to not just give them the tools, but teach them how to infuse technology into their instruction. Technology is always changing and we want to keep up with that.”

Smithtown Central School District
26 New York Avenue, Unit 1
Smithtown, NY 11787

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT NO. 9
SMITHTOWN, NY 11787
CARRIER ROUTE PRE-SORT

****ECRWSS****
SMITHTOWN POSTAL CARRIER



INSIDE THE CLASS

Technology at Work

Hour of Code:

Every December, elementary students throughout the school district participate in the Hour of Code. During Computer Science Education Week, all students spend one hour learning the basics of computer programming through both unplugged and plugged activities.



Morning Check-Ins:

Kindergarten students are using technology as soon as they enter the classroom each morning. They are checking in to choose their do their calendar work and monitor the weather using their classroom smartboards.

SSROOMS:

rk

Creating/ Editing Videos:

Students in Denise Massimmo's Principles of Marketing and Advertising class at High School West created a video as part of their final project. To satisfy the personal aspect of their business plan, all teams made a video to record a commercial for their new product. Students explored the process of video editing with hands on experience. The students used their problem solving skills, creativity and teamwork to produce their finished product, which was then presented to the class.



Project Lead the Way:

In the Science of Technology unit, students apply the concepts of physics, chemistry and nanotechnology to activities and projects, including making ice cream, cleaning up an oil spill and discovering the properties of nanomaterials.

Digital Recording Studio:

Fourth graders at St. James Elementary have been busy learning new technology. During the first week of school, the students turned their classroom into a recording studio using the video response platform Flipgrid. The students wrote a short script to introduce themselves, share their interests and express their hopes for fourth grade.



HSE Coders:

Students in Dave Savage's PLTW Computer Integrated Manufacturing class at High School East are working with code. The students are using code to create what will be a manufacturing assembly line project.

Mechanical Bulls:

Using their technology skills, Smithtown's robotics club, the Mechanical Bulls, worked for six and a half weeks to design, engineer and construct a robot to compete in a national competition.

TECHKNOW Kids Club:

Accompsett Elementary is not only using technology but also teaching students how technology works. The fifth grade TECHKNOW Kids Club allows students to explore the more technical side of technology. Students learn how to operate, troubleshoot and maintain the many devices the school district has to offer. Working as a team, the TECHKNOW Kids actively support the technology needs of the school's faculty and students.

What's New...

- Chromebook carts in sixth grade core classes.
- Chromebook carts in seventh grade core classes.
- Chromebook carts in eighth grade core classes (2020-2021 school year).
- New devices for all secondary teachers.
- Additional software licenses.
- A total of 2,150 new Chromebooks districtwide.

Leadership and Innovation

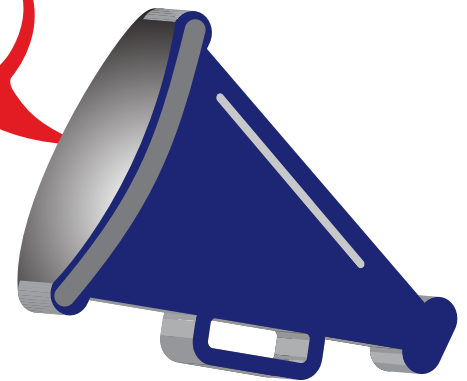
High School West ENL teacher and technology coach Dr. Katie DiGregorio has been named the winner of the 2019 Fred Podolski Leadership and Innovation in Technology Award from BOCES. Only one administrator and one teacher across Long Island are honored with this award each year.

Dr. DiGregorio was nominated for the award by High School West Assistant Principal Christopher Elsesser. "She is always looking for opportunities to share how she incorporates technology in her classroom with her peers," he said. "Smithtown Central School District is very fortunate to have Dr. DiGregorio working to empower teachers in learning new strategies and instructional tools to promote long-term growth and capacity."

Last school year, Dr. DiGregorio instituted the Triple T (Teaching Technological Tools) program to offer instructional technology professional development to a small group of teachers during faculty meetings, after school or during prep periods.

"Technology has always been my passion," Dr. DiGregorio said. "I think the program has been so successful here in Smithtown Central School District because the teachers really have someone to support them."

The Fred Podolski Award is presented to educators who have demonstrated outstanding technology initiatives. The award was presented at the Long Island Technology & Education Summit on Oct. 18.



Asbestos Update

The district's ongoing asbestos program complies with the federal Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act and has resulted in the following asbestos abatement projects since the district's last report:

- Districtwide operation and maintenance floor tile replacement.
- Select areas in Accomsett Middle School, Great Hollow Middle School, Smithtown High School East and Smithtown High School West.

The district has completed its triannual survey of all the buildings and continues its semiannual surveillance requirements under the regulations of AHERA. This, combined with the district's ongoing maintenance program, has produced a list of operation and maintenance repairs on a districtwide basis. A summary of these repairs is included in each building's management plan.

Any individual may review a building's management plan by going to the school's main office and requesting it. Copies of all the schools' management plans are available for review at the district's central office at 26 New York Avenue, Smithtown.

SCHOOL & COMMUNITY DIGEST

Published by the Smithtown Central School District

BOARD OF EDUCATION
 Jeremy Thode, President
 Michael Saidens, Vice President
 Matthew Gribbin
 Mandi Kowalik
 Frank James
 Jerry R. Martusciello
 Michael Catalanotto

SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS
 Mr. Russell J. Stewart

DISTRICT CLERK
 Maureen O'Connor

26 New York Avenue, Unit 1
 Smithtown, New York 11787



Smithtown Central School District does not discriminate on the basis of handicaps or on the basis of sex, race, or ethnic background in the educational programs or activities which it operates.