

MIDDLE SCHOOL DISCUSSION GROUP, May 23, 2016

Select your group:

___Student

___Teacher

___Parent

___Principal

1. In your opinion, what are the things related to Personalized Digital Learning (PDL) 1:1 that have gone well? How have you/school benefited from having 1:1 devices?

Students:

Different levels of content/websites can help you work at your own pace.

Individualized learning to a certain extent.

Quicker access to information.

Easier/quicker way to take a test.

Parents:

Intensive training for teachers. Increased availability for testing.

Allows students to work self-paced/individualized.

Oral accommodation available on the iPad.

Provides all students access to the Internet.

Teachers:

Gives student opportunity to work at their own pace.

Student engagement, access to multi-media, iTunes U, use of different apps.

Helps save paper.

More capability with ALEKS and ACHIEVE to improve skills like Lexile.

More options to choose from for projects. Before it was poster board. (iMovie, Keynote, etc.)

Increased tech savvy skills of our teachers.

Lexile gains and growth because of digital content.

Increased student achievement.

High percentage of student accessing content at home as well even without take home option.

Efficiency in giving MAP assessments

Whole class access to information.

Access for student who are on homebased/homebound.

Students:

Work at their own pace.

Writing easier.

More creativity for student and easy for testing.

Research for projects like NHD.

Principals:

Digital content allows principals to see trends and patterns across school.

Collaboration for teachers with grade level content.

Accommodations for students can be done with others knowing it.

Provides students something worthwhile and differentiated to do while the teacher may be working with a small group.

2. As PDL evolves through continuous improvement, what are the areas that we should focus our attention on in order to make it better?

Students:

Especially with NHD projects, some websites are blocked. Hard to get research and sources at the end of the year. Need to improve the filter options.

Cases – if you drop your iPad it will break

Should be able to take the device home.

Principals:

Increased efficiency for repairs.

Ensure all students have iPads when damage occurs/spares.

AirWatch

Eliminate student's ability to access inappropriate content.

Increase effectiveness of accountability for students doing digital content.

Internet safety/digital citizenship – do we have processes in place for new students.

Lack of a keyboard doesn't help keyboarding skills.

Students:

Need access to more apps

Increasing bandwidth – one classroom has internet problem

Need camera for iMovie projects

Principals:

Breakage and students without a device is of concern.

Tech fee

Need a wider range of content for students with special needs.

More rigor for PBL and collaboration.

Encourage instructors to make instructional decisions in response to student data.

Students:

Need to focus on restrictions and which restrictions are put into place.

Kids will play games and find a way around restrictions.

Find a way to incorporate other things in addition to tech. so there is a balance.

We have become absolutely dependent upon the device but when Wifi not available

New cases this year and seem to have less breakage.

Parents:

Research more apps. Must be more out there besides ALEKS, Achieve, and NoRedInk, etc.

USA TestPrep, Compass, seem to have disappeared.

ELA – students do not read enough or write enough.

Students should have access to actually download and read a book or check out a hard copy of a book.

Ability to write/type with keyboard.

Have seen students become more passive learners rather than active. Need to shift that back to where students are looking for solutions.

Teachers:

Use of the bags....

Networking issues

Classroom sets was tossed around, might be hard to do.

At least have a classroom set of keyboards that may be signed out.

Compatibility with various apps.

Typing the essay for NHD is needed. Need a keyboard. Google Doc not in line with what students are learning in keyboarding/formatting/etc.

Storage and charging of iPads in the classroom.

Breakage is the main problem. If students do not have a device because theirs is broken, it is difficult for the teacher.

Work on iPad doesn't always transfer to the laptop.

Students:

Breakage. Should be an alternate in the classroom if device is broken.

Essay disappeared for a week on H: drive.

Everything was on the device so when student could not use device due to health issue there were no other assignments.

Chargers – students break them easily. With no charger there is no iPad use.

USA TestPrep – old standards

Cases

3. To help us begin planning for the next middle school device refresh (currently Fall 2017), would you recommend the purchase of a new iPad as the student device?

10 Yes 24 No, select another device 12 Undecided/No Opinion

If "Yes", why is an iPad the best choice?

Students:

Nobody decided on keeping the iPad. Rather a different device.

Teacher:

Yes, keep iPad

Less prone to viruses

Lot of opportunities for student accountability

Do not need USB drive with Ipad if teacher learns how to

In four years have only seen one iPad break in his class. Needs protection when traveling in hallways.

Perhaps a class set of keyboard for ELA teachers.

Students are familiar with them.

Many of the apps are subject related.

Other undecided: like the idea of middle/high connecting with same platform

Would love to have Compass Learning in classroom.

Would eliminate desktop computers and create more space in classroom.

Students table:

Split decision; perhaps keyboard needed; smaller on the desk,

Students would prefer MacBooks.

Agree that keyboards would be beneficial and more access to websites and Microsoft programs that are easier to use.

Dell Venue with keyboard vs. iPad with Keyboard: student had rather have ipad with keyboard
Dell Venue shuts down a lot.

That fact that student actually have iPads is really nice

4. If you checked "No" to #3 above, what features do you want in the next student device?

Need a keyboard and the detachable keyboard like the high schools have.

Some websites we can't access because of Adobe Flash player.

Would like some capability with the teacher device and the student device. If we are going with iPads then teacher need a Macbook if we are going with Windows device then keep the teacher windows device.

Access to USB drive would be very helpful with transferring info and documents. Especially when we continue to have Wifi issues. Even access to Google Classroom is sometimes difficult.

Perhaps some type of carrying bag.

Whatever we move to we must make sure teachers have enough info and training to hit the ground running.

Middle and high school needs to be the same platform, especially for the kids that are not tech savvy.

Undecided but if a new device is selected it should have a keyboard. Think it should be a Macbook since it is much more organized. (EB : budget will not allow or a Macbook.)

Dell Venue – did not like because of deleting documents

Teachers:

In need of keyboard

Parents:

Keyboard needed

Device with MS Office

Adobe

Middle and high having the same device

Invest in the proper training to the teachers and how to incorporate in the classroom

Students Undecided; keeping Ipads fine, work well, get job done, but if possible they would want something with Windows; keeping platform consistent with elem/middle/high; would love a keyboard;

5. Please add any additional comments to help as we continue to plan for Personalized Digital Learning?