
Vision

Vision Statement

Technology offers students an opportunity to succeed as citizens in a society in which information is growing at a prodigious rate. Jasper City Schools leverages technology to evolve a dynamic, student-centered, learning environment that maximizes student potential, empowers teachers, embraces parents, and promotes global citizenship. Incorporating technology as a means of integrating curriculum across subject areas is the main objective.

Student Technology Available

Availability

Jasper City Schools has always ensured students have broad access to technology. During the 2012-2013 school year, Jasper City Schools completed a 1:1 iPad/iPod initiative. Students in grades 3 - 12 have been issued iPads and grades K-2 have iPod touches. Jasper City Schools has continued to maintain a low student to computer ratio, around 2:5. There are approximately 1400 computers for student access. 869 are 5 years or less in age which are the totals for state reporting. Of the 1400 computers, 596 of them are over 5 years of age but still used in the classroom for network programs. All computers have MS Office installed and appropriate educational software is available on every computer. With the goal of achieving fully integrated 21st Century classrooms, Jasper City Schools has implemented an energy savings initiative with the proceeds going to purchase technology for the classroom. In the 2012 school year, policies and procedures have been put in place to allow students to bring their own personal electronic devices.

With these savings, 52 SMART boards have been added to the district. Additional SMART boards will be added with monthly savings until each classroom has an interactive board. Also with the initiative, other technology will be purchased as needed.

Maddox Middle School has two complete computer labs and fifteen computers available in the library. Two mobile laptop carts have been added for the 2010-2011 school year featuring 72 laptops, two network printers, and two wireless access points.

Walker High School's library has 51 computers for student research and productivity. Two mobile laptop carts are also available for teacher classroom use. In November 2007, Walker High School installed an interactive video conferencing lab, which was made possible through the statewide ACCESS initiative. The lab allows real-time video conferencing capabilities between an off-site teacher and students on various high school campuses. The video recorders, microphones, and large screens installed in Walker's interactive video conferencing lab facilitate the teacher's ability to see and hear students at all locations and respond to students' questions. The High School has six complete computer labs, a Career Center with seven computers, and two laptop carts. Walker High School was awarded the College Access Challenge Grant which provided a mobile guidance computer laboratory including 20 tablet computers. This lab will be used by the students to research careers and colleges and apply for financial aid. These computers will also be used to create podcasts to help students' career education.

North Highlands is Jasper City Schools special needs school and has student computers available in all classrooms. Recently North Highlands has added touch screen monitors for the students to use in the classroom.

T.R. Simmons Elementary has an interactive multimedia classroom featuring a projector, Elmo, interactive white board, response systems, audio equipment, and laptops. This room also includes 9 Macbooks and an iPod touch Docking Station with 11 iPods. T. R. Simmons has a computer lab with 25 computers and an additional 6 computers in the library. Two mobile laptop carts have been added during the 2010-11 school year.

West Jasper Elementary has an interactive multimedia classroom featuring a projector, Elmo, interactive white board, response systems, audio equipment, and laptops. West Jasper Elementary has a computer lab with 25 computers and an additional 15 computers in the library. Two mobile laptop carts have been added during the 2010-11 school year.

Memorial Park Elementary has a laptop cart complete with wireless access point, available for all classrooms to use. All classrooms at Memorial Park Elementary are equipped with SMART boards, ELMO's, and projectors along with SMART Notebook software. Two mobile laptop carts have been added during the 2010-11 school year.

Jasper City Schools will continue to promote and support statewide initiatives such as Alabama Math, Science, and Technology Initiative (AMSTI), Alabama Reading Initiative (ARI), Technology in Motion, ACCESS Distance Learning, Alabama Virtual Library (AVL), and ALEX.

E-mail addresses are available to all employees and students for communication with faculty, students and parents. Not only is Jasper City Schools using Microsoft Live @ Edu for e-mail, but for Microsoft Office web apps and on-line storage as well.

All schools maintain a website with current information for communication and publishing of school information. Each teacher is provided a website connected to the school web page for communicating with parents, as well as, students. Jasper City Schools also takes advantage of social media to communicate with the community.

All Jasper City School's classrooms and offices have a VOIP phones.

All libraries use Destiny by Follett, which allows the students and teachers to search not only their own school collections, but other schools as well. Library search access from home has been implemented in the 2011-2012 school year. iPads have been added to

the Walker and Maddox school libraries with plans for using e-books for check out in 2012-2013 school year. During the 2013-2014 school year, iPad carts will be added to Memorial Park Elementary and West Jasper Elementary.

Technology and Curriculum Integration

Integration

Jasper City Schools uses Curriculum Connector to map technology standards across all curriculums thereby ensuring technology integration in every classroom. Data Director has been implemented district wide for on-line standardized assessments. STAR is used to assess student reading and math levels. The on-line Accelerated Reader has been purchased for the middle school and all elementary schools. Riverdeep's Destination is used to assist in delivering many types of assessment/curriculum to students. Grades 1-8 have been provided on-line access to Destination allowing them to complete personalized interactive lessons from home.

With the implementation of 1:1 initiative, students can conduct research from any classroom in the school. Teachers use Edmodo as a learning management system to deliver and receive students' lessons and homework. Jasper City Schools purchased apps which allow students to create podcasts, movies, interactive notes, and digital stories. Electronic books are being purchased in place of textbooks as textbook adoptions are implemented. Walker High School has immense technological resources. Most classrooms have multiple computers. Some of the major software packages are X-it, Discover, Logger Pro, Perfect Copy, Passkey and PLATO. Walker High School has a large Career Tech department which has 100 computers running various software. Some of these include Microsoft IT Academy, Photoshop, Microsoft Office products, Adobe GoLive, Checkpro, Google Docs, and Moodle.

Describe Systemwide Infrastructure as related to Technology

Infrastructure

Jasper City Schools currently has 100% of classrooms, libraries, labs, and offices connected to Local Area Networks. Each Elementary School and the Special Needs School have a LAN with a copper backbone running at Gigabit speed. The Middle School and High School have a LAN with a Fiber Optic backbone running at Gigabit speed. West Jasper Elementary's network had a complete upgrade. Fiber runs from a core switch to all classrooms. All computers connect at 100Mb. The Central Office connects to the Middle School LAN. All computers have Internet and typical LAN resources at their disposal. Currently no LAN improvements are needed, with the exception of occasional re-wiring normal in a school environment.

All Schools are setup as follows: 1 Dell 2950 Microsoft 2003 R2 File server provides local file sharing, and data storage. It also serves as the local repository for anti-virus, deep-freeze, and print server. The 2950 servers have built in redundancy for power, as well as a raid 5 disk array. All files are backed up locally, and then transferred to the central office location for backup. The servers connect to our HP Procurve network utilizing a collection of 5340xl, 7000DL, and 2650's, routers and switches, setup along a gig backbone between switches. All schools are connected with fiber running back to a central HP 5340 XL switch located at Maddox Middle School. Jasper City Schools has standardized on Windows 7 as the desktop operating system.

A wireless controller is installed at West Jasper Elementary. All Jasper City Schools 248 wireless access points connect back to the wireless controller located at West Jasper Elementary.

Describe the Connectivity/WAN between your schools and other facilities.

Connectivity

Jasper City Schools completed the installation of connecting all schools with fiber. All fiber is single mode and terminates at specified locations at each of the schools back to a central location at Maddox Middle Schools where the entry point of Internet Access is provided. Twelve strands of fiber will be connected to each location with an additional twelve strands made available near T.R. Simmons for later expansions. All of our schools are setup the same and come back to a centralized location where we use Dell 2950 rack mounted servers for Microsoft 2003 active directory. We use a 7 Terabyte drive array to copy a nightly backup of each school's data, and finally backup to a Dell MD 1000 tape drive on 800gb tapes. All schools use 2950 switches throughout and eventually come back to either a 5340xl or 7000dl HP Procurve switch or router. All network switch connections are gig within and fiber between schools.

Future Plans:

Evaluate bandwidth usage to determine if upgrades are needed.

Describe the mechanics of how Internet Access is provided from the main distribution point down to the school level.

Internet

Jasper City Schools uses the Alabama Super Computer Authority to provide Internet access. ASC provides access through a 200 Mbps line. Traffic studies will be conducted on the 200 MB line throughout the school year to determine if further upgrades are needed. Jasper City Schools is requesting the Base Level service of a 200 Mbps line to meet our 1:1 iPad initiative that will start January 2013. Jasper City Schools has agreed to pay for an additional 300 Mbps to meet the needs of our 1:1 initiative. Content Filtering is provided by ASC as part of the service. Internet Safety Policies and Acceptable Use Policies, which are signed by all students and staff, have been approved by our Board after public hearings were held for the purpose of CIPA compliance. Reviews of those policies are carried out on an as-needed basis.

Internet access comes through Alabama Super Computer and is provided currently by Bellsouth. At our Primary WAN MDF our 250 Mbps line runs through our fiber WAN to each school. Once inside each building it comes into our HP Procurve 5400 switch series which acts as the gateway for each school. It is then accessible to the rest of the network. Jasper City Schools has purchased a iBOSS server to assist in monitoring network and internet usage. The iBoss server also has built-in content filtering for internet usage.

Describe measures taken to ensure Information Security

Security

Network Intrusion:

Jasper City Schools uses the Alabama Super Computer Authority to provide Firewalling services using a CISCO 515 Firewall. The school year 2006-2007 we moved to ASC for all SPAM and virus filtering.

Workstation Security:

All student computers and multi-user desktops are protected using Faronic's Deepfreeze and Anti Executable. As added security, we are using Microsoft policies and pushing them to the workstation. Internet content filtering is provided by Alabama Super Computer as part of our Internet Access. A Lightspeed Security Agent has been added to monitor bandwidth usage, content filtering, internet traffic, and much needed additional anti-virus protection. SynchronEyes is installed on lab computers for monitoring of student computers. Microsoft Forefront is used for anti-virus on all teacher and administrator computers.

Network Access:

We use Active Directory access to control network logons. Users are required to use secure passwords, which must meet three rules to be a valid password.

OS Configuration/Control

Security with the iPads/iPods is being implemented with the Apple Configurator and iBoss MDM. With these pieces of software, students will have restricted from using certain features on their iPad or iPod. The MDM will help with managing the control of Apps allowed on the devices. Jasper City also uses the iBoss Filtering system to monitor all on-line activity.

Technology Use for System/Schools Not Meeting AYP

AYP & Educational Technology

To enhance curriculum and engage students in our schools not meeting AYP this year, Jasper City schools plans to continue the 21st Century classroom initiative by adding interactive white boards, wireless slates, document camera and projectors as funds become available. Maddox Middle School will continue to utilize computer software, to focus on comprehension and thinking skills, such as Riverdeep and Cornerstone.

Jasper City is in the process of evaluating other software products to be used for assessment, teaching and remediation.