HILLSBORO’S PLAN TO ENHANCE TEACHING AND LEARNING WITH CLASSROOM TECHNOLOGY

Teachers in Hillsboro are among the finest in the country. Long work weeks, detailed lesson planning, and an unwavering commitment to every child’s growth describe a promise that is made every day to do right by our children. This constant reminder of our potential as a school district to ensure that each and every child graduates career- and/or college-ready moves us to address some very important issues.

Teachers monitor student data and conduct daily assessments to inform instruction in a very real way. They are also developing strategies to personalize learning environments to ensure every child both accelerates when possible and catches up where necessary. Teachers are eager to begin integrating technology into their day-to-day instruction, however many of the current structures of our network, our decision-making processes, as well as financial limitations put us at a veritable standstill that we must address.

Our teachers and students are waiting for the tools necessary to accomplish the goals at hand. Nearly 85% of the computers in our schools are at or approaching their functional “end of life.” The average desktop computer takes more than eight minutes of instructional time to boot up. More and more of our students are opting to bring their own devices to school, simply to avoid the frustration they feel using ours.

Enter our technology plan. While resources may always challenge our thinking on how to move forward quickly, Hillsboro has placed a priority on addressing our current reality. Of course, our work around implementing Common Core State Standards (CCSS), better assessment systems, our Bilingual Program Model, and Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) remain at the forefront. However, we believe our outcomes will more closely align with our goals if we can implement a sustainable plan to make our instructional context more digital. This will undoubtedly take time, and must be done with the utmost care and respect for those of us for whom technology can be a little scary. While we always have a choice to adapt and change, the needs of our ‘digital natives’ suggest a call to action that we simply cannot ignore.

The vision is this: what if, over the next five years, we built a culture where technology is viewed as a tool for learning? What if we equipped our students and teachers with devices that could unlock the world? What if curriculum could be designed to meet every child where they are? What if the curriculum created opportunities for children to interact on a global landscape, bringing the real world into the classroom, or even extending the opportunity to learn far beyond the six hours they are in our schools each day? What if students could access the Internet, their files, and their teachers from anywhere? What if we used technology to reduce the time teachers must spend calculating grades, lesson planning, and on paperwork, and simultaneously increased the time they could spend face-to-face with our children?

All of this is possible. But in order to reach the vision, we have to start now. Our Board is currently considering a year one investment of $1.5 million to begin placing tools in students’ and teachers’ hands. Indeed, a great start. However, doing this right means we need to have a plan that includes all stakeholders. Over the next few months, we will be reaching out to you to get this project moving. Here is how we intend to start:

**Teacher training.** We must provide teachers with the supplies they need to begin using technology in new, innovative ways.

**Engage our students and parents.** Our work is constantly strengthened when we get more voices in the room. This couldn’t be more true than in the area of technology.

**Build strong alliances.** “Going digital” means learning new ways to do business. We are in a great location to directly benefit from our business partnerships.

**Start with success in mind.** We’ll develop metrics for monitoring progress, and create a continuous improvement structure to ensure we are focusing on the areas leading to the biggest gains in student achievement.

**Build a sustainability plan.** We want to ensure our investments will continue well into the future. We'll need to plan carefully to ensure our investments will continue well into the future. We’ll need to plan carefully to ensure our investments will continue well into the future.
Students at Butte Creek Elementary School continue to focus on academic, music, and arts. Students at Butte Creek Elementary School are currently working on refining their Windows 8 app, which allows community members to browse the environment, vision. It was impressive.”

This year, the collaboration between the Hillsboro School District and Synopsys has been instrumental in developing a sense of excitement and a vision of the future point, a Droid and Mac version. Students have been working on refining their Windows 8 app, which allows community members to browse the environment, vision. It was impressive.”

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month two grade levels and our principal
JacKson ElEmEntary scHool
ing.
while also practicing some fun critical think-
they can visit and get to know each other and
Twice per month. While eating lunch together,
TAG students at each grade level meet
table will be featured. Students will hear
literature as she shared some tips about plot
were honored to have a visit from Lisa Ard,
cased several interesting learning opportu-
ment of Science and Aviation.

Many exciting things are happening for
Lincoln Elementary. Prepare them for middle school math. Our
whiteboard lessons), special education in-
ty in the classroom (including interactive
document areas for improvement at Jackson.

Many exciting things are happening for our
TAG program has show-
cased several interesting learning opportu-
nities for students, including interactive
words. The math formula to measure this
landing on the
moon! Students currently are at
program, which tracks stu-
with the program.

This year the band was featured on a "pul-
black Americans.

This was the annual event/stu-
day, June 10 (Pathfinder Team), and Tuesday,
university for 18 years,

First ever Engineering Night were added. Through ACES and Student Voices, the

Plans are well under way for the very first
grants the 7th grade team.

As we begin fourth quarter, we are excited

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The technology component for students, the quality of their professional development, and the thoughtfulness and the quality of their classroom environment. Designed to complete their passport and answer a survey question will show how you work. A completed passport also enters you into the Chamber of Commerce’s passport stamping contest. Prize winners for parents and other community members who participate in this exciting collaboration during evening events when students demonstrate their learning, or work with adults to experience new things together. Additional information will be provided throughout the summer and fall. If you have questions or for more information, please contact Principal Rob Finley. Ramona 310-844-1570 or erin@hillsboroms.org. 

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CLASS OF 2012

Our seniors are in the midst of prom season, AP and IB testing, and wrapping up this year’s school. They are preparing for life beyond high school – for four- and four-year colleges, trade schools, and technical programs. Here’s to helping the effort and learning of the past three years lead to a successful future. Our high school students are appreciated, excited, and surely a bit nervous. All of them deserve our shared appreciation for teaching perhaps the most significant milestones of their young lives.

For more information, visit www.hillsboroanna.org or contact Erin Greene at erin@hillsboroms.org.

Young Farmers’ Markets are a part of the Hillsboro Farmers Market program. Each Saturday from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., the Farmers Market has a special food venue, information booths available to provide a calendar of different activities and children’s events, and educational programs. The Downtown Hillsboro Saturday Farmers’ Market is a year-round, open-air market featuring fresh, local agricultural products, artisanal craft items, non-food items, and crafts. The Farmers Market is a dynamic, fun, and educational experience for all ages. As we tackle strategic planning, we are growing more than $70,000.

Congratulations! The Hillsboro Chamber of Commerce recognizes the excellence of local high school students. Noelani is a Renaisanse woman,” school Advisory Council. She was nominated for the state as a finalist for the 2012 Prudential Spirit of Community Award, and was named as one of the most anticipated awards ceremony, featuring local high school entertainment, and community members, and has raised thousands of dollars for various charities.

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Let’s talk about summer fun in the Hillsboro Farmers Market. At the Hillsboro Farmers Market in downtown Hillsboro from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. The Farmers Market has a special food venue, information booths available to provide a calendar of different activities and children’s events, and educational programs. The Downtown Hillsboro Saturday Farmers’ Market is a year-round, open-air market featuring fresh, local agricultural products, artisanal craft items, non-food items, and crafts. The Farmers Market is a dynamic, fun, and educational experience for all ages. As we tackle strategic planning, we are growing more than $70,000.

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The restoration process started with the removal of invasive reed canary grass, which poses a threat to many wetland ecosystems. After removing the canary grass, Farmington View recognized the students of the school's mascot, the northern red-legged frog.

After removing the canary grass, Farmington View is working to restore the natural habitat for the northern red-legged frog.
Like many parents, there is always a fear of putting her granddaughter into the program. Maria feels the program is a “great opportunity to learn a new language and isn’t as fluent as she would like to be.” She explained, “I feel closer to my relatives in Eastwood Elementary School was looking for a way to bring together students and their families. They identified an opportunity to work with OMSI. They created a program that is both fun and educational for all ages. The community rallied together to build a garden, learning is literally fed. The community partners having the opportunity to contribute! The spring happenings at Quatama are all about partnerships and community involvement.

WEST UNION ELEMENTARY SCHOOL Principal: Brian Haats

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JAY Juanita McCullough

KIM Yvonne Wold

KIRK Dean Davenport

McGuckin, and Savannah Tran. Each one of these students is finishing up their second and last year at Liberty Middle School.

As we approach the close of another year, I want to acknowledge and thank all of our staff, parents and community for making our school a success. We are very proud of the hard work done by students as they continue to push themselves to be the best they can be. Liberty is recognized by the Oregon Department of Education as a Rewarding School and every year students are chosen for the National Blue Ribbon School.

We will be working hard to ensure that all students are prepared for the next step in their educational journey. As we look forward to the 2013 – 2014 school year, we will be focusing on preparing our students for success in whatever they choose to do in the future.

As I prepare to embark on my next journey, I want to thank all of the students, parents, and school staff members who have been a part of my life at Liberty High School. You all have made a difference in my life and I will always be grateful for the opportunity to work with you.

The standards are the same wherever you live in Oregon. These standards are fundamental to each and every student in Oregon. Our classrooms will be harvested for additional supplies for the community partner displays showing hands on learning more about the Dual Language program.

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beyond the next five years.

So what’s next? We start year one. Teachers, students, parents and community members will be called on to help us lead. We will spend what we budget on computers, laptops, tablets and software. We will call on experts to encourage innovation and experimentation. We will count on YOU for feedback. Let’s get started!

**Synergy**

**District Launches New Student Information System in August**

On August 5, the Hillsboro School District will launch Synergy® SIS, a next-generation student information system, replacing the current eSIS system. As a centralized, web-based application, Synergy will house comprehensive student information, streamline operations, and facilitate communications between staff, administrators and families. The system’s intuitive interface is user-friendly and gets users up to speed quickly. Data that were housed in separate systems will be consolidated in Synergy, providing efficiencies in time, cost and operations.

**Why Synergy?**

In 2011, the provider of eSIS informed districts across the country that eSIS was being discontinued. A consortium of districts, serving the majority of students in Oregon, was formed to select a successor product. Edu-point’s Synergy Suite was selected after an exhaustive search, evaluation, and bidding process. Districts across the country have adopted Synergy, many of whom have used it since its first generation version, and many more continue to join the Synergy family. Hillsboro’s implementation of Synergy has been ongoing since August 2012. Training has already begun for district staff—and the overall response to the new system has been positive as the accessibility and functionality of the new system are explored.

**Accessibility and Functionality for Staff, Administrators and Families**

Available on the web as well as mobile devices, Synergy can be accessed anywhere at any time. A wide breadth of capabilities provides something for everyone.

At its most central functionality, Synergy allows office staff, registrars and counselors to: manage registration and enrollment; maintain student, parent and emergency information; schedule classes; assess course history and graduation requirements; and more. Health, program and team information will be maintained by assigned specialist staff.

However, it’s the VUEs that really enhance Synergy functionality.

For teachers, the TeacherVUE™ module includes attendance recording, assignment and test development and tracking, and a fully-integrated classroom gradebook. This leads to more efficient classroom and grade management and more time teaching. Teachers also have the capability to develop classroom websites through the gradebook for custom, class-specific postings for student and parent access. The mobile device apps for TeacherVUE also offer flexibility and portability of the SIS functionality and information, whether in the classroom, around the school or off-campus.

For parents and guardians, ParentVUE™, the web portal into Synergy, is a much-needed tool for ready access to student information. It will be made available shortly after the primary launch of Synergy SIS. This web- and mobile device-accessible application enables parents to view data on all children in the family in one central location. Parents will be able to easily update contact information through ParentVUE, as well as view attendance, class schedules, grades, calendars, and more for each of their children. Tying into teachers’ gradebook functionality, parents may view class websites, assignments and test results. Online payment of fees, when implemented, will also become available through ParentVUE.

For students, StudentVUE™ provides similar functionality to ParentVUE. They will be able gain additional control of their learning as they see their own data, including class assignments and grading, via the web or mobile devices. There’s an app for that, too!

**Beyond the Data**

In addition to its comprehensive database functionality, Synergy offers powerful and efficient communications tools. District and school announcements are easily distributed to Synergy users and through the VUE applications. E-mail communications from schools to families, such as school news or attached newsletters, are easily set up at the click of a button. In ParentVUE and StudentVUE, calendars display important district and school events in one central location. Parents and students can communicate directly with teachers via e-mail or streamed messaging through the VUE applications. ParentVUE auto-notifications via e-mail alert the parents who subscribe to this feature to inform them of their students’ lagging attendance, grades and more.

The next several months will be intensive—busy ones as we set up and ramp up to Synergy launch. We are excited to bring this new system to our district, schools, students and families, and look forward to its public presentation in August. Please be sure to visit the district website for future updates and watch for continuing updates and frequently-asked questions on our Synergy implementation on the district website.

1Please note that gradebook functionality is being phased in: 2013-14 school year for middle and high schools; 2014-15 for elementary schools.

**Ladd Acres Kindergarten student Renee Carpenter proudly explains the results of her scientific study during the science fair.**