

**A DIGITAL LEARNING
ENVIRONMENT INVENTORY
FOR
APOLLO MIDDLE SCHOOL**

We are one of several middle schools in the Broward County School District, the sixth largest in the country.

AN OVERVIEW

WHAT TOOLS, SOFTWARE, OPERATING SYSTEMS, AND EQUIPMENT ARE AVAILABLE?

- Because of our designation as a STEM and Aeronautics middle school, we have access to some very meaningful technological benefits.

OUR 6TH GRADE CENTER

- ▶ Each 6th grade room is “smart rooms,” fully outfitted with a built-in projector, screen and sound system

6TH THRU 8TH GRADE ROOMS

Between the 2013-2014 and 2014-2015 school years:

- Our 6th grade center participated in the district's Digital 6 Initiative, where every 6th grade Language Arts and Math room was given a laptop cart.
- Then the remainder of Language Arts rooms received a laptop cart
- The Reading department later received a delivery of some carts that rotate among teachers in that department, and each Reading teacher was given a Lenovo Notebook.

OPERATING SYSTEMS

- ▶ Across campus we have both Mac and Microsoft operating systems
- ▶ Every classroom does have a document camera, and initially some had *Mimio* (equipment that allows the whiteboard to be used as an interactive “smart board.”)
- ▶ More *Mimios* have now been purchased using monies from the Teacher Incentive Fund (TIF), a professional development grant we were awarded by the district
- ▶ TIF funds also purchased a bank of iPads to augment our media center’s supply. This will allow all of us teachers to schedule a class set of iPads on a rotating basis

VIDEO CONFERENCING

- ▶ We have a tremendous resource in the form of our video conferencing capacity (**Annotation #1: I will be using this tool this year to help my students foster relationships with kids in other parts of the world**)
- ▶ Our media specialist is an expert at facilitating its use
- ▶ As teachers, we really need to take advantage of this tool, and more consistently incorporate its use in our lessons

DOCUMENT SHARING/ DATABASES/SOCIAL NETWORKING/ STREAMING

- ▶ Many teachers, including myself, use *Dropbox* and/or *Google Docs* either for storing our own documents, or to share among ourselves
- ▶ Our library affords students access to research databases such as *SIRS*, *Gale*, and *Opposing Viewpoints* capacity
(**Annotation #2:** I will be using this tool this in my attempts to foster global awareness in my classroom... students will be **engaged in at least one formal research project**)

DOCUMENT SHARING/ DATABASES/SOCIAL NETWORKING/ STREAMING CONT'D.

- ▶ Many teachers use *Edmodo* as a means of communicating with students about assignments
- ▶ Through *BEEP* (Broward Enterprise Education Portal) we have access to various links. One of them is *discoveryeducaton ... through this platform connections provided to myriad sources—virtual fieldtrips and lesson plans.*
(**Annotation #3:** I will be using this tool this in my attempts to foster global awareness in my classroom... students will be **engaged in taking some virtual fieldtrips** where onsite visits are prohibitive for a variety of reasons)

WEBSITE

- ▶ A few teachers, primarily in the Math department, do have their own websites
- ▶ Each school in Broward county, including ours, also has its own website. Ours is managed by our media specialist.

HOW ARE OUR TEACHERS CURRENTLY UTILIZING TECHNOLOGY FOR LEARNING?

Apollo possesses myriad online programs that allow us to supplement core texts, and provide enrichment and remediation for students as needed. Some of these are:

- Reading Plus—a program that helps increase students' reading fluency, speed, comprehension, and more
- Dimension U—a tutorial program used across the Math department
- Gizmos—an interactive online simulation program used in the Science and Math departments

UTILIZING TECHNOLOGY FOR LEARNING (CONT'D)

In addition to Discovery Education, Broward County Schools also makes the following to teachers:

- Online versions of newly adopted textbooks
- Elluminate
- Atomic Learning (which affords teachers the availability to learn how to use myriad technology platforms), and more.

WHICH GLOBAL E-LEARNING SITES ARE AVAILABLE ON CAMPUS?

All the following sites are accessible, and I encourage all of you to take small steps to make them part of **your global technology** arsenal.

- ❖ iEARN www.earn.org (**Annotation #4: International Education and Resource Network**--I will be using this tool in my attempts to help my students collaborate with kids in another country on at least one project that will have a positive impact for a community, hopefully one abroad...**conferences/workshops**)
- ❖ ConnectAllSchools <http://www.connectallschools.org>
- ❖ Peace Corps Speakers Match <http://www.peacecorps.gov/www/speakersmatch/>
- ❖ ePals <http://www.epals.com>
- ❖ Global Nomads Group www.gng.org
- ❖ Omprakash <http://www.omprakash.org/about>

WHICH GLOBAL E-LEARNING SITES ARE AVAILABLE ON CAMPUS? (CONT'D)

- ✦ Primary Source www.primarysource.org
- ✦ Outreach World <http://www.outreachworld.org>
- ✦ The UN Works <http://www.un.org/works>
- ✦ Global Education Conference
<http://www.globaleducationconference.com>
- ✦ Online Newspapers <http://www.onlinenewspapers.com>

I also highly recommend streaming or listening to podcasts of shows from

- ✦ Public Radio International's (PRI) *The World* www.pri.org (**Annotation #5:** I use this tool often. Listening keeps me abreast of **political, cultural and educational issues going on in various parts of the world;** being armed with this information helps me generate ideas to share with my students in class, just one more resource in my arsenal to help them learn what's taking place in other parts of the world)