



Technology

K-5 Computer Labs Updated

Another notch in our belt. During the month of December, the computers in the Computer lab at Woodgate Elementary School were replaced with **new computers and monitors**. This was the last phase of a project to put new computers in the labs at all the K-5 schools. This project began during the 2008-09 school year.

The update of computers in the labs are a part of the long term strategic plan to provide all students with equipment to support 21st Century learning.

In addition to all K-5 schools having new computer equipment, the District has licensed the EasyTech Web-delivered K-8 technology literacy curriculum. EasyTech integrates technology into Math, Science, Language Arts and Social Studies.

Additional information regarding the EasyTech curriculum can be found at: <http://www.learning.com/easytech/index.htm>

The District continues to look for innovative ways to improve student performance through the use of

technology.

In March a Technology Day will be held, the Technology Day will be used to showcase our labs and answer questions regarding technology in the District. Dates will be announced.



Students engaged in Computer based assignment.

Parent Portal

In October, the Parent Portal software went live, the software provides parents with **access to their students grades**. Parents of Colin Powell Middle School students were initially given the opportunity to sign-up

for access to their student grades online. After confirming that there were no significant issues with the software, parents at the K-5 schools were given the opportunity to sign-up. We have re-

ceived lots of favorable input from parents using the Parent Portal. If you have not signed up or have questions regarding the Parent Portal, send an e-mail to: ParentPortal@dist159.com

Elementary School District 159

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Special points of interest:

- ☺ In March, a member of the Cook County Sheriff Department will visit Colin Powell Middle School students to discuss Internet Safety

Inside this issue:

Calling On Techies	2
Tech Terms	2
Remote Access	2
Contributor Opportunity	3

Calling All Techies

The Technology Team is looking to recruit parents, business leaders, community members or anyone with a background in Technology as a Technology Partner.

As a technology partner you would work with the Technology team to improve the technological offerings of the district. The partners would work with us to identify professionals to come in and speak with our students about careers in technology and work on other technology related projects. If you are interested, please contact Eddie Short, Director of

Technology, via e-mail:
eshort@dist159.com



For our students
Let's Get Connected!!

Tech Terms

Blog—A **blog** (a contraction of the term "**web log**")^[1] is a type of web-site, usually maintained by an individual with regular entries of commentary, descriptions of events, or other material such as graphics or video. Entries are commonly displayed in reverse-chronological order.

Twitter— The Internet is all a buzz about Twitter. What is Twitter? It's a way to keep family, friends, and coworkers up-to-date with what an individual is doing by using an instant messenger service, .

the web, as well as with mobile texting, plus other venues. Messages sent out by Twitter users are limited to 140 characters, which is just enough for a quick update

"Blogs and Twittering are ways to keep family, friends, and coworkers up-to-date with what an individual is doing. "

Remote Access

Did you know that your student can access many of the software programs that we use in school at home or anywhere they have access to a computer connected to the Internet?

During the Winter Break, we doubled our network bandwidth. You may ask, what does that really mean. Bandwidth is the rate in which information

can move across the network. In addition, we replaced two of the computers which are used to provide our students with remote access. This was done to improve the performance experienced by our students when using the remote access option.

To access the programs remotely, you

must have a computer with Internet access and Citrix Software installed on your computer.

The Citrix software is available free of charge by going to www.citrix.com and clicking on the Download option.

Complete download details can be found at www.dist159.com. Click on Technology and Citrix Remote Issues and Solutions.

Elementary School District 159

6202 Vollmer Road
Matteson, Il. 60443

Phone: 708-720-1300

Fax: 708-720-3218

E-mail: eshort@dist159.com



Mission Statement

By developing a partnership with staff, parents, and community, and by using the **most current technology** in a safe, loving, healthy environment, the mission of Elementary School District 159 is to educate children academically and socially so that they can function successfully in an ever-changing society.

Contributions

If you have a story related to technology that you would like to have included in the newsletter, please forward it to me at eshort@dist159.com.

Thanks

Eddie Short

Director of Technology

Elementary School District 159

