

# Transforming Our Teaching through Technology

Written by Cat Weaver, CAP Coordinator

*“Education either functions as an instrument which is used to facilitate integration of the younger generation into the logic of the present system and bring about conformity or it becomes the practice of freedom, the means by which men and women deal critically and creatively with reality and discover how to participate in the transformation of their world.”*

– Paulo Freire, *Pedagogy of the Oppressed*



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As we move forward with our district technology initiative, we each must ask ourselves if the way we teach is best for our students, if we are giving them the skills they will need for the future and how we are pushing their thinking about the world. It is no longer acceptable to stand in front of a classroom and lecture at students, hand out worksheets printed from a textbook and give pen and paper tests. Teaching must be a collaborative effort where teachers and students learn, question and create side by side.

The CAP staff is wholeheartedly working to transform their teaching through the use of technology. With the help of Matinga Ragatz, from the Eaton RESA, we've begun envisioning education in ways we hadn't just two months ago. To begin this process, we've created a main landing page for our program ([www.pottersvillecap.weebly.com](http://www.pottersvillecap.weebly.com)) and each teacher is actively building pages for their content area courses that are easily accessible to both students and parents. I asked each teacher to share with you how they envision technology transforming their teaching.

*I believe different technological aides are key in helping students deepen their understanding of new material. Students in every class can benefit from using technology to review content, complete homework and improve skills. Students are currently deepening their understanding of physical concepts by completing interactive simulations. The website PhET is an interactive website that allows my students to visually comprehend concepts in a fun and interactive way. I am currently working on a website that will connect my students with more of these interactive websites. In science class, using technological aids helps the learner acquire new knowledge and transforms teaching in a more meaningful way.*

- John Ley, Science Teacher



Mary explains the Newsela website to John, Bonnie and Matinga.

*In the Alternative program, I am always wondering how to reach all of the students at their level and still challenge them to move forward with or without the rest of the class. In an effort to juggle many needs at once, the idea of creating a website that students can access and collect any missing assignments has been my goal for awhile. Until recently, I didn't know where to begin. Fortunately, with the help of Matinga, I*

*have started to create my website, teach the students to maneuver through their Gmail account, send out assignments and forms for each of the students to complete work, and submit their final projects. While working on my website, I am learning more about making individual movies with the students to engage them on a different level. I am learning more every day, and am excited to learn more from Matinga, and from the students.*

*-Mary Sherwood, Language Arts Teacher*

*Many of our students have gaps in their mathematical knowledge as well as having gaps in the credits that they have earned. My goal is to make it more accessible for students to make up credits and close their individual learning gaps. I am using technology to help individualize my lessons. Currently, all of my students are enrolled in Khan Academy. This free resource allows me to pick the areas a student is weak in and assign interactive tasks and videos to complete. I am also using our school website as a place to break down the courses into quarters. I am in the process of posting standards, resources, and tasks that need to be completed for each quarter. Eventually, I see it as a way for students who are behind to work independently to make up missed credits.*

*-Bonnie Anderson, Math Teacher*