



Technology in Action at Drayton Christian

I love computers! Now don't get me wrong, I do not consider myself a computer nerd. I don't spend all of my spare time with my eyes glazed over, staring at binary code, pressing Cheeto-stained fingers against the keyboard, and I definitely don't live in my mother's basement! However, the value and expediency that these complex machines provide on a moment's notice, especially in the classroom, is priceless.



Our grade eight and nine Language Arts class has received an invaluable blessing. Every day, the students walk into Language Arts class, set down their books, grab a seat and login to their personal computer prior to picking up their novel to silent read. The resulting opportunities provided to every individual student and the classes as a whole are inestimable.

We use our computers as a word processor, communication tool, research engine, learning utensil, personal organizer, presentation creator, as well as a new medium to explore and tell narratives. "What does assonance mean? What does idiom mean? Did you just insult me?" The answer is at the click of a tailless mouse. These complex black boxes serve to motivate and engage young, hungry minds day after day in our Junior High Language Arts classes. Of course this new learning environment has presented its challenges.



"The dog ate my homework" has been replaced by "the printer isn't working" or "I emailed my homework from home, but it didn't come through." I have also learned that there is nothing more enticing than launching poorly pixelated digital penguins at targets for points. Despite these minor impedances, our Language Arts class has improved due to this twenty-first century machinery as students not only learn Language Arts; moreover, they are attaining invaluable skills and experience applicable to our ever increasing technology immersed culture.

Submitted by Travis McNaughton
Teacher - Drayton Christian School

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