



Jackson Academy Technology
Technology Plan 2010-15

Jackson Academy's Technology plan for 2010-2015 was initialized by Jackson Academy's strategic plan. The educational program component of the Strategic Plan focuses on teaching and learning skills required for the 21st Century and the opportunities that technology brings to education.

The world is rapidly becoming both more digital and more globally connected. To best prepare our students to live and work in this changing environment, Jackson Academy believes there is a need to supplement our traditional curriculum with more technology and our traditional teaching methods with more flexible and collaborative methods. A foundational goal of our Strategic Plan is,

"To build a distinctive element into the educational program designed to provide students with the knowledge, skills, and dispositional qualities needed for success in the 21st Century."

Jackson Academy identified several crucial skills needed to satisfy this tactic.

- Critical Thinking
- Problem Solving
- Communication Skills
- Collaboration Skills
- Flexibility
- Creativity
- Global Vision
- Environmentally Conscious
- Awareness and Appreciation for Technology
- Strong Character Development
- Learning Differences
- Use of Time and Scheduling
- Communications
- Global Education
- Curriculum Teams
- Character Development
- Technology
- Service and Learning

After careful study and research, we believe that all students in a class utilizing an identical device facilitates a far superior learning environment to one where students have a hodge-podge of various devices, platforms and software programs. A goal for our technology initiative is that the devices fade into the background so that the focus is on teaching and learning, not a device. We believe this goal can best be reached when all students are working from one identical, coherent platform. To that end, we have chosen Apple devices because they offer unparalleled benefits for education. Our teachers' long-term use of MacBooks for the last three years and our pilot device program have confirmed the benefits of Apple devices for education.

Technology is the tool that will lead Jackson Academy to fulfill what has been laid out in the strategic plan. The following represents the general plan for technology use at Jackson Academy for the next five years.

- Develop and implement extensive professional development in the educational use of technology
- Preschool - introduce interactive boards, projectors, and iPod Touches
- Grades 1st-4th - each student will have an iPad to meet their educational needs
- Grades 5th-12th - each student will be given a Macbook Air to meet their educational needs
- Employ a full time technology instructional specialist
- Evaluate further needs to technical and instructional support
- Develop a technology center
- Initiate professional development programs to be held during the school day and in summer workshops
- Research the feasibility of developing online courses
- Infrastructure upgrades (network and servers)
- Fully develop the relationship with Apple as a partner in our goal of use of technology for enhancing teaching and learning

For more information on Jackson Academy's technology initiative, please visit
<http://ilearn.jacksonacademy.org>