

Mother Seton Regional High School

Technology Update

Mother Seton Regional High School
Edition 1

One Valley Road, Clark, New Jersey 07066
Information Technology Update

New Second Floor Computer Tech Lab Completed New Desks, Chairs and Laptops

Mrs. Campos Joins Tech Department

Mrs. Patricia Campos retired from teaching in June. She has returned to Mother Seton Regional High School in a capacity that utilizes her background and credentials in technology. She has now joined with Mrs. Maureen Connell to coordinate the technology efforts throughout the building. This includes the planning, implementing and acquisition of hardware and software, as well as repairing and upgrading existing hardware. Faculty are encouraged to utilize the existing technology and should be aware that every effort is being made to provide faculty members with in-house in-service.

Faculty members have been provided with laptop computers. In most classrooms, a cart with a projector and a printer are available for use by both faculty and students.



Freshmen utilize the new Tech Lab.

The Second Floor Technology Lab renovation is now complete. Mrs. Mary Beth Ream, Director of Development worked with Mrs. Connell to apply for several technology grants to fund this project.

By combining the generosity of two different organizations, we were able to secure funding for new secure computer laptop desks and ergonomically correct chairs for student use. By utilizing the Technology Initiative funding available to non-public schools through the Union County Educational Services Commission, we were able to purchase twenty of the twenty-eight laptops. The school provided the additional funding to complete the twenty-eight station computer lab.

Classes in technology are regularly held in this lab which is equipped with a black and white laser printer as well as a color laser printer that was donated by a parent through a program with Dell. This computer lab is available to all faculty and students to use when there is no class scheduled for that room. Faculty are encouraged to check with Mrs. Torsonne about availability of the room .



Mrs. Vaiana using her laptop-cart-projector setup.

Faculty Become MSR Techno-Stars

In October, Mrs. Connell began a new Faculty Incentive Plan called MSR Techno-Stars. In an effort to encourage faculty to use the existing technology, this plan allows for all faculty and staff to earn points for using the computers or for teaching others to use the different types of technology now available in the building. Mrs. Campos and Mrs. Connell helped to make this hardware available so that teachers incorporate their use in the classroom. Faculty, staff and Administration who have earned 20 Stars will go to dinner. We hope to be able to fund other incentives throughout the year.

MSR Techno-Stars



Announced



Mrs. Maureen Connell

Mrs. Pat Campos

Mrs. Arlene Torson

Mrs. Doris Vaiana

Mrs. Vicki Walker

Mr. Tom Moran

Ms. Melissa Larson

Mrs. Donna O'Boyle

Mr. Jon Semcer

Miss Joan Barron

Mrs. Kathleen Joseph

Miss Maria Buontempo

Mrs. Jessica Illingworth

Mrs. Kathleen Blechar

Mrs. JoAnn Kwiecien

Sr. Jacquelyn Balasia

Mr. John Uriarte

Miss Marge Barkan

Mrs. Maria Vazquez

Mrs. Tracey Blauvelt

Miss Melissa Hunt

Mrs. Katherine Sullivan



SMARTboards: Interactive Technology Enters the Classroom

Mr. John Uriarte and Mr. Tom Moran have been very instrumental in helping us purchase several SMARTboards. They saw them in use in early childhood education and encouraged us to look into the grant funding that was available when these boards first became the rage among educators. Mrs. Connell was able to secure these funds and Mother Seton Regional High School provided the remaining funding to make this possible. These are multimedia boards that serve as big screen interactive monitors for computers equipped with projectors. The best part of these SMARTboards is that they function as touch screen monitors; the data displayed on the board can be manipulated through the use of several different colored styluses. Changes made on the boards can be saved to the computer.

Using *Senteo* clickers, the SMARTboard can be utilized to elicit individual student responses to questions that might be displayed on the board. The results are then displayed in chart form and the "clickers" give students feedback on their performance.

Mrs. Sullivan, Mr. Moran, Mrs. Walker and Mrs. Joseph use the SMARTboards in math and science to encourage student involvement.



Juniors use the *Senteo* clickers to answer questions during Religion class.

Technology in the Physics Lab

Mrs. Katherine Sullivan has developed a program for use in the Physics Lab. Students use technology to complete their lab assignments, and all of the lab data is then recorded in an Excel based program that she has created for use in her lab. Mrs. Sullivan also uses many laptops for class. Students are excited about using the computers to track their data and the resulting lab reports are exceptional.



Freshmen make use of the updated computer lab in Rm 102.

Speeding up our Internet Connection

Faculty and Students alike have recently noted that our Internet access has seemed sluggish. Of course it is... we have added so much hardware and software that it was inevitable. We currently have a partial T1 known as a Frame Relay that has been providing us with adequate Internet access. The addition of new networking and computers has slowed down our system so much that we have decided that it is time to upgrade our access to the Internet. We have discussed this with Elliott Wu, our IT provider, and he has determined that we can now save money by discontinuing the Frame Relay circuit and replacing it with a full T1 giving us four times the bandwidth we currently have. In doing so, we will move away from the Verizon connection and use only a T1 connection through his company, American Network Expert which provides the school with email and web site hosting. Mr. Wu and his company have been helping us since we began building the MSR backbone over ten years ago.

Administrative Support Encourages Faculty

Sister Regina Martin has always encouraged us to provide students with the most up-to-date resources for educational purposes. Over the last several years, some schools have chosen to have every student use his/her own computer for class. Sister has been steadfast in her belief that teachers need to be in the forefront to determine and adopt the newest and best innovations, but a high quality education cannot be acquired with just one tool. Faculty members still need to utilize "old fashioned" teaching techniques. There is ample access at MSR for students to use the computers, but teachers need to teach and students need to read, write, discuss, listen and take notes. We are most fortunate to have an administration that encourages us to seek the best and strives to provide us with the tools we need to be competitive and successful



Mrs. Joseph challenges Math students using her laptop-cart-projector setup.



Seniors research their history project using wireless laptops in Miss Hunt's class in Rm 131.

MSR goes WiFi

The Technology Plan that was developed five years ago envisioned for the building to be wireless by this year. The basic backbone for the original technology was through CAT 5 wiring to each of the classrooms and offices throughout the building. A series of 12 wireless N routers are in place and individuals can now access wireless internet in every area of the building including the cafeteria and gym. We were fortunate to have our own Art Minch run the wiring while Mr. Fazul Nabi has helped to set up the wireless routers as well as the new second floor wireless computer lab.

Going Green with Computer Disposal

One might ask what will become of all the computers we have replaced? Mother Seton Regional High School is very conscious of the need to recycle these machines and have regularly employed Regentech, Inc, to recycle this equipment. Regentech, a recycling company from Paterson, NJ, picks up any computers that we no longer need or want. Before we recycle them, they are offered to families at Mother Seton who might not have access to a computer in their homes or who want a second machine for home use. Students sometimes take the machines for parts to build a computer in their own homes. Our own Tech Team uses some of these to open up for learning purposes.



Sophomores enjoy using the updated computer lab in Rm 102.



Students and Faculty Invited to Make Use of WIFI and Laptops

Some students have begun to use their own laptops in school. They are encouraged to do so if they find this useful. Most students are not yet feeling compelled to carry around a computer and choose to utilize the many computers throughout the building.

There are two laptop carts available for teachers to use in their individual classes. These are located on each floor. The laptops are new and have wireless internet and printer availability. Other students are using the PC's that are available in the Computer Lab on the first floor. This room is available in the morning before classes, as well as after school until 4:00 pm. The Internet connection in this room is wired and the computers access the internet very quickly. A printer is also available for students to use in this room as. Students and faculty are now encouraged to purchase for their own use a "Flash Drive" to store their data. This is a standard that is accepted in most academic institutions, and would certainly help the student to get organized for class work, homework and, eventually, for the college application process.

Hunter System's *GradeQuick Web* Nearly Ready to Go

The Main Office has long used a Microsoft Access based program to collect data about students. Ms. Jackiewicz, Mrs. Campos and Mrs. Connell have been working to integrate a new database program that will combine the guidance files, grades and student data in one administrative program. All other data is in place and the faculty and Guidance Department will combine efforts to upgrade to this new system. Beginning this March, faculty were included in this effort. Mrs. Connell and Mrs. Campos met with the faculty to activate their individual accounts. It is expected that by September 09-10 individual faculty members will be using *GradeQuick Web* to record their grades. This is a long-awaited accomplishment and it is expected that everyone will be anxious to participate in implementing our electronic grade book and report card program.