



REPORT

Program/Curriculum Success

Purposeful Use of Technology

Regular Board Meeting:
January 6, 2015

For further information, please contact:
Al McManaman, Superintendent of Education
Kelly Forbes, Principal, School Support Services and
Special Education Administrator



Rainy River District School Board

Purposeful Use of Technology

The Rainy River District School Board's Strategic Plan highlights the need for purposeful learning by promoting and embedding the effective and safe use of technology to support teaching and learning. School Support Services supports this goal by embedding technology while providing professional development to teachers and training students. School staff can request assistance through an online referral process; thus far in the 2014-15 school year, the technology coaches have received 66 referrals from teachers requesting technology training and support.

The two Technology Coaches are involved in a number of projects and initiatives such as:

- Promoting online safety by planning and co-teaching lessons based on the Common Sense Media website and resources;
- Using the Career Cruising platform to support the implementation of the Individual Pathways Plan;
- Assisting teachers in the use of blogs and Google Classroom as communication tools with parents;
- Using iPads to support inquiry in Early Learning classrooms;
- Enabling students in the RRDSB to use Skype meetings with classes from around the world to further students' understanding of geography, social studies, and global citizenship;
- Using iPads to encourage creativity and constructivist learning in mathematics;
- Training teachers, educational support personnel and students in the use of assistive technology as a means of differentiating instruction and meeting the special needs of students;
- Using a variety of powerful online tools to increase student engagement and learning in all subject areas.

Increasing the use of technology tools such as iPads, Google Classroom, and Skype allow students to share their knowledge with others and publish their work in a safe and supportive environment. With appropriate instruction and experience, technology can be used by teachers in a manner that supports learning and encourages students to participate positively in an online environment.

Plans are in place to continue to provide support to teachers across the system in order to further assist with the integration of technology in the classroom. The Technology Coaches are currently working with the Information Technology department to assist in the acquisition, management, and deployment of technology within the system. This collaboration will help to ensure that hardware is selected and deployed in a manner that best meets the progressing needs of teachers and students.