Technology Plan

School Name: Christian Academy of Louisville

Vision Statement:The vision Christian Academy School System is “to ignite and transform students to impact our communities through world-class, Christ-center educational experiences.”

Mission Statement:The mission of Christian Academy School System is “to develop students with a heart for God, who grow as Jesus did in wisdom, stature and in favor with God and men.”

Executive Summary:

The following plan intends to

* Add hundreds of new computers and tablets for student use.
* Upgrade networks, improving both speed and capacity
* Make content available to students and teachers 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.
* Meet the needs of 21st century learners.
* Provide a cost analysis for the incorporation and improvement of technology.

This plan will be effective based upon the vast improvement that the school system has made in terms of incorporating technology over the course of the past 3 years. This includes establishing a 1:1 iPad program for high school students, transforming our data from a server based system to a cloud based system, and improving our wireless capabilities.

As a result of the implementation of this plan:

* Students will have the tools they need to succeed in the classroom and beyond. This will be especially true in the STEM areas.
* Parents will have better communication with teachers and will have access to classroom resources online.
* Teachers will be able to meet the needs of diverse learners, provide additional practice for struggling students, and adjust the pace of classroom instruction. Teachers will have resources that allow them to provide immediate feedback and make data driven decisions.

By implementing this plan Christian Academy will continue to be a leader, not only in Christian education, but a leader for all K-12 education throughout the Commonwealth and the nation. Such a plan will help the school to attract the best teaching talent which will help transform our students into the community, social, and business leaders of tomorrow.

Needs Assessment

* [Link Needs assessment here](https://castudents-my.sharepoint.com/personal/tashcraft_caschools_us/Documents/Grad%20School/W520/Ashcraft%20Needs_Assessment-blank.docx)

# EVALUATION & RECOMMENDATION FOR ADAPTIVE/ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY

As noted in the Needs Assessment, Christian Academy lacks in regard to adaptive/assistive technology. Despite the fact that Christian Academy is doing very well meeting the technology needs of our students, the district has a long way to go in order to meet the needs of students with various learning differences and disabilities.

As our school begins a pilot program at the elementary level to allow students with Down syndrome to enroll at Christian Academy, we must develop a strategy to provide adaptive technology for these students as they progress through our system. This can be achieved by regular consultation between special education teachers, the technology, and curriculum departments.

Our plan includes the installation of wireless audio amplification systems for our middle school and elementary classrooms to meet the needs of hearing impaired students and teachers.

# Diversity, Culture, Language

As a private Christian school, diversity of ethnicity, culture, and language is not as robust as it might be at most public schools. The overwhelming majority of our students come from upper-middle-class, Caucasian, protestant Christian homes.

Diversity can be found due to our exchange program. By maintaining relationships with private schools in South Korean and Kenya, a small number of students come to our school for anywhere from one semester to four years. While all students must be able to speak and read English before enrolling, their mastery of the language and understanding of cultural norms is often lacking. In order to meet their needs, online resources should be utilized to make sure that, if requested, assignments can be produced in a language more suitable to the students’ needs.

Equitable Access

Our school has provided an iPad to every student at the high school level and every faculty member at the elementary, middle, and high school level. Additionally, every faculty member has a desktop computer in his/her room, and 24 access to the cloud software used to store data: One Drive.

The school has media centers for all three levels each which are equipped which desktops and a limited number of laptops for student use. A goal of our school’s plan is to provide iPads to all middle school students so that they have better access to learning management systems such as Edmodo.

NETWORKS

* WIRELESS: Currently 100% of the schools have access to wireless Internet.
* In 2014, internet bandwidth was doubled on every campus. Plans are in place to increase this bandwidth annually in order to accommodate the increased use of audio and video content by teachers and students.

Goal: Integrate technology into teaching and learning

# Strategies:

* Survey teachers to determine need for interactive technology tools.
* Develop a committee of department chairs to regularly meet with IT to relay the concerns and needs of all teachers.
* Appropriate funds to meet the technology needs of all departments
* Develop a detailed Needs Assessment to measure the needs of all campuses.
* Plan regularly scheduled PD days exclusively for technology instruction.
* Transition from paper-based instruction to digitally based instruction.
* Expand student use of technology at all levels.
* Equip classrooms to meet the needs of 21st century learners.

# Implementation:

* Identify and adopt a Learning Management System (LMS) to support instruction.
* Deploy/upgrade audio amplification systems on all campuses.
* Provide laptops to support STEM initiatives.
* Install and maintain a digital projector in all classrooms.
* Deploy a 1:1 iPad program at the middle school level.
* Deploy a Mac products lab to support video production at the high school level.
* Provide e-readers and other assistive technology for students with learning differences.
* Equip at least one classroom for distance learning on every campus.
* Train media specialists and computer teachers to help respond to parent support questions.

# Progress:

* Edmodo has been chosen as the LMS
* A limited number of audio amplification systems have been installed
* Classroom sets of iPads available for middle school students
* Professional Development seminars have been scheduled and planned

# Professional Development:

The goal is to implement technology in a meaningful way in the classroom; rather than simply as a substitute for older techniques.

* 2 Professional Development days each school year dedicated exclusively to implementation of technology in the classroom.
* Funding made available to allow all departments to attend at least one technology conference away from campus or online over the course of the next three years.
* 1 technology based lesson per semester to be observed by either a department chair or administrator for the purposes of evaluation.

# Finances:

## Technology Budget:

As we begin to implement this technology plan for the next three years, there are a number of areas in which we must increase our budget in order to make the goals set forth a reality. Transition to a 1:1 iPad program in the middle school will require a minimum of 450 new devices must be purchased. New audio amplification systems must be installed in the 68 classrooms of the elementary and middle school. Finally, at least one classroom on the four main campuses must be equipped for distance learning.

For professional development purposes, monies must be set aside to allow departments to attend technology conferences, participate in online workshops, and pay staff attending PD days during the summer, outside of the contract year.

Finally, in an effort to meet the demands that new technology investments will require a minimum of 2 new support technicians. The school’s help desk is currently overrun with tickets taking valuable time away from other needs. The following numbers are to be considered for the upcoming 2015-2016 budget and beyond.

## Investments:

### Technology Devices:

* $189,000 (450 iPads at $420 per device for MS)
* $35,000 (audio amplification systems for 68 classrooms)
* $20,000 (distance learning equipment for each campus)

### Training:

* Technology conferences for all departments: $2800 per year
* Hourly wages summer PD sessions:
	+ 50 staff at $10 per hour for 8 hours: $4000 per year.
* Online workshop fees: $2000

### New Positions:

* 2 technology support technicians: $60,0000

### Maintenance & Repairs:

* $40,000 for general maintenance, replacement, and repairs