Digital Learning Environment Inventory

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The following inventory assesses the digital tools available to teachers and students at McQueen High School in Washoe County School District, in Reno, Nevada.

1. What tools, software, operating systems, resources, and equipment are available in your school and classroom? Including but not limited to: dedicated technology personnel, tablets, smart phones, computer labs (stationary /or mobile), videoconferencing, streaming…
2. At McQueen High School, every classroom has a desktop and laptop computer designated for teacher use. We use Microsoft operating systems on both of them. Teachers can use one or both of the types of computers.
3. All teacher computers are equipped for Internet access, using Internet browsers such as Internet Explorer (PC’s) or Chrome (Google). All teachers are equipped with the Microsoft Office Suite ( Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Access, Outlook)
4. The Washoe County School District has a contract with Microsoft with regards to software. Teachers and students are unlimited in their access to email providers.
5. All classrooms at McQueen High School have lumen projectors and smart boards with available special interactive smart technology, installed about three years ago. At that time, we were encouraged to take optional training courses to learn the smart technology. Few of us did and now very few of us use the smart interactive technology. For the majority of us, we calibrate our smart boards to use with our on line textbooks. Other than that, the boards serve as replacements of our television sets to project information from the computer or to project dvds.
6. As of October 25, 2015, all classrooms are equipped with Wi-Fi accessible to both teachers and students.
7. McQueen High School has a videoconferencing program for interviewing potential teachers from outside of the area. It is available in our office conference room by request through the principal’s office.
8. The district technology coordinator doesn’t block YouTube for students and teachers. If inappropriate words are typed into the browser, sites will be blocked to teachers and students.
9. There are three computer labs available to faculty and staff. Two labs are classroom –sized rooms with approximately 30 PC’s each. The other lab is a mobile lab that can move from classroom to classroom. Each mobile lab has 30 laptops dedicated to PC use. Teachers can reserve these labs by contacting the lab facilitators by e mail. We also have about twenty computers in our library for student and teacher use.
10. Our World Languages Department just purchased 30 iPads, but they haven’t been let out to World Language classrooms yet due to issues of programming them and blocking inappropriate sites.
11. Due to Wi-Fi access in all of the classrooms, students can use cell phones and all other electronic devices in all parts of the school, at the discretion of the individual teacher. Students use cell phones and kindles to access online textbooks and to conduct research for school projects.
12. The school’s library has a free data research base called Destiny for materials in our library and The Washoe County School District.
13. Our school has its own M drive to share important documents on our server
14. Our district web page lists by department a place to share ideas by content area.
15. World Languages is now setting up a web page of resources for teachers in our district.
16. Select 10-15 global e-learning sites and Web 2.0 tools listed in this week’s materials that you are interested in using. Which are available and which are blocked by your firewall? How does your school make use of school/and/ or teacher websites, grade book technology, Google Apps for Education, one- to- one education technology, flipped classrooms, etc.?
17. The district uses Campus Instruction, an updated model of Infinite Campus, to record student grades and attendance. All students and parents have access to this information via the Campus Instruction student and parent portals. Students and parents can also download mobile apps that give access to grades. Teachers can access Campus Instruction from home or on their smart phones.
18. The Washoe County School District has a website that provides access to district news, calendars, faculty and staff information, and links to individual school websites. It also provides resources to curriculum guides and standards for every level of instruction and content area. The website is: [www.washoeschools.net](http://www.washoeschools.net)
19. McQueen High School has its own website that provides that provides more specific information and calendars for parents and students, as well as lists of teacher’s names by department. The website is: [www.washoeschools.net/mcqueen](http://www.washoeschools.net/mcqueen)
20. Teachers aren’t required to maintain a teacher website at our high school.
21. 10-15 global e-learning sites and Web 2.0 tools I am interested in using are:
22. ConnectAllSchools [www.connectallschools.org](http://www.connectallschools.org)
23. ePals Classroom Exchange [www.epals.com/](http://www.epals.com/)
24. Skype [www.teachingdegree.org/2009/06/30/50-awesome-ways-to-use-skype-in-the-classroom/](http://www.teachingdegree.org/2009/06/30/50-awesome-ways-to-use-skype-in-the-classroom/)
25. World Youth News <http://worldyouthnews.org/>
26. Link TV: Television Without Borders <http://www.linktv.org/>
27. Newseum <http://www.newseum.org/todaysfrontpages/default.asp>
28. WorldSavvy Monitor <http://worldsavvy.org/monitor/>
29. WorldWise Schools <http://www.peacecorps.gov/wws>
30. TeachUNICEF <http://teachunicef.org/>
31. Latin American Network Information Center <http://lanic.utexas.edu/la/region/k-12/>

 All of these sites are available and not blocked by my firewall.

1. How are you currently utilizing technology for student learning, classroom management, communication, professional development, professional networking?
2. Currently I use my own weebly website for classroom management. On my homepage I list my syllabus, cultural project information, and links to required outside computer work for my honor’s classes. I have a tab for homework where I list what we do in class daily and what the homework assignment is for that day.
3. For student learning, I use Yabla, a site where students listen to documentaries and music videos in Spanish from varying Hispanic regions and then they play a game where the lyrics or speech are shown with blanks where they have to figure out what word(s) are missing and spell them correctly- including accents. This is like a Kloze activity.
4. Also for student learning I use the website Destinos, a 53 episode telenovela (soap opera) where students hear each episode in Spanish and fill out an accompanying worksheet during the episode that asks comprehension questions about each episode. That night students receive another worksheet to answer further comprehensive questions about the episode and learn more about the culture of each Hispanic country that is visited.
5. Also for student learning, students have cultural and art projects throughout the year where they must research their topic using the Internet.
6. For communication, I use our outlook district-wide system where students and parents can e mail me questions and concerns.
7. How would you like to further evolve your use of technology in the classroom?
8. I would like to use the technology we have at our school for the 4 competencies of global education. To investigate the world, I would like my students to use their cell phones in class to research projects. I would like to sign us up to go to the computer lab to also investigate global issues. I am in a mobile, so the laptop computer cart would be difficult to get up the steps! When our I pads are up and running, I would also use them to investigate the world. I will continue to use You Tube videos to expose my students to other cultures, but I am now realizing everting doesn’t have to be teacher directed. Student directed research is just as powerful.
9. To recognize perspectives I would love to use Skype in my classroom and have students directly interact with guest speakers. Students could also individually skype with peers in different countries.
10. To communicate ideas with diverse audiences, I would also use Skype.
11. To take action, I would have students publish in World Youth News their ideas for improving the world. I would also have students volunteer locally in our community to get a sense of how small actions can influence our world and make it a better place for everyone. I would have them investigate where to volunteer using their phones or computers in the computer lab.
12. What sites and Web 2.0 tools are colleagues in your building using?
13. Some colleagues are using flipped classroom. The majority who tried didn’t stick with it because they felt in theory it worked, but in reality, the students didn’t do the preparatory work at home and so weren’t able to apply what they learned in class.
14. Most teachers do use websites that correspond to their textbooks and do supply students with codes to sue the texts online outside of the classroom.
15. Most teachers at our school do use You Tube in their classes because it isn’t blocked at our high school.
16. The AP teachers do use the website for College Board.
17. Many teachers at our school do use weebly to manage their classes.
18. Some teachers at our school do use Campus Instruction to mass e mail their students or their parents.
19. Some teachers at our school do use sites for students to turn in their homework.
20. Is there a system for evaluating student technology literacy in your school? If so, how effective or helpful have you found the assessment?
21. Right now there is no formal system of evaluating student technology literacy at McQueen High School.
22. Is there a system for evaluating educators’ technology literacy to identify areas of need and match those needs to professional development programs?
23. Right now there is no formal system of evaluating educators’ technology literacy at McQueen High School. A year ago our coordinator of technology at our school surveyed us to see what technology devices were in our classes for purposes of accountability and labelling the devices with our district stickers, but that was the extent of it. We were never asked what programs we were using.
24. Describe the professional development opportunities available to properly introduce you to and train you in the use of various technologies.
25. The district does offer professional development opportunities each month to learn about new tools and sites to facilitate instruction. Some teachers do attend, but they aren’t mandatory.
26. Our school offers has one teacher with two periods a day to go around and help teachers. With 100 teachers at the school, her job is primarily fixing broken computers. She has no time to go around and help us with new programs.
27. Implementation of a 1:1 formal program could allow both teachers and students the support necessary to facilitate greater technological implementation in daily instruction.
28. Either at the district or school level, a technological skills rubric should be implemented across curriculum to ensure all graduates and I believe teachers are literate in the skills necessary to be successful at the college and career, as well as, classroom levels.
29. What technology tools, professional development, funding, etc. not presently available would help to achieve your district’s technology objectives and your professional objectives?
30. I don’t believe our district has anywhere near the technology tools needed to meet our district and my professional technology objectives. We just had Wi-Fi installed in all of the classrooms. Now we need all of the computers and laptops upgraded to the most current operating systems and software programs. Our computers run very slowly right now.
31. Each classroom needs to be equipped with a class set of individual laptops or I pads.
32. Each department needs to have money allocated to them to purchase software programs for the department.
33. Create professional development programs for teachers and separate ones for students to show us how we can use technology more efficiently in our learning and in our classrooms. Teach us how to create blogs, videos, podcasts, thing link, etc.
34. How does technology help you globalize your classroom?
35. As I mentioned earlier, technology would help me fulfill the four competencies of global education. Technology would help my students investigate the world, communicate with diverse audiences, recognize perspectives, ad take action.
36. Technology is the key to connecting us with the world. Short of travelling around the world which most of us can’t afford, for the most direct experience, it puts us in the second best way of connecting with the world. Once we connect, we can work together to solve world issues.