

Abstract/Shared Vision

At Barr-Reeve Community Schools, we've surpassed our goals time and again with test scores, graduation rates, and school grades. The next challenge is to meet our students on their turf...the digital turf. Being that we have a large Amish population, our students seek out and digest information in a different way. They were ready for us to incorporate digital learning into our classrooms with 1:1 devices, which allowed them unparalleled access to places, cultures, and history outside of Daviess County. Our students also needed these types of 21st Century skills for the job industry that exists in this area. Just twenty-five miles away is one of the largest STEM employers in the country, Crane NSWC. The technology leadership team shares the vision to learn more from corporations who are successfully utilizing digital devices and curriculum, partner with Five-Star Technology Solutions to assess our technological and instructional needs, and provide training in both the pedagogical and technological shifts that must occur for 1:1 implementation. Our belief is that by the time that we have spent in gathering information and participating in quality professional development our students will benefit and truly be college and career ready when they move beyond Barr-Reeve Community Schools.

Our Progress and How We Got Here

Barr-Reeve developed a core leadership team during the summer of 2014 that included the Superintendent, Building Level Administrators, the Director of Technology, and teachers. Throughout the next couple of that visited five different school corporations gathering information on their current 1-to-1 programs. During these visits, our team talked with teachers and administrators on how their school was currently using technology to further the student's educational experience. These visits were also vital in that our team was able to see multiple different devices in use and from this the team was able to formulate an informed decision on the device that Barr-Reeve wanted to move forward with in our 1-to-1 implementation.

Summer of 2014 (Year 1): The Barr-Reeve leadership team decided that going with Chromebooks as our device was the direction that we wanted for our 1-to-1 implementation. Our Chromebook decision was made upon the cost of the device and that the GAFE interface with Google email would take the place of an aging email server. We didn't want to jump head first into this because our network infrastructure was not currently ready to support a full 1-to-1 implementation so we decided to purchase a Chromebook for every teacher to get convertible in using the device. We also purchased one cart full of Chromebooks to replace aging desktop computers in one of our English classrooms. We felt that this would be a good test to gage how our teachers and students both used the device. We also provided some preliminary in-house training for teachers on how to use their new Chromebooks when they were handed out and more in depth training on GAFE and other apps that you could use in the classroom starting the 2nd semester of that school year.

Summer of 2015 (Year 2): Due to the success and amount of use of the English Chromebook cart, Barr-Reeve purchased 4 additional carts to locate in various areas of the school as 2 stationary carts in the 5th grade and 2 other carts that would be available to be checked out by teachers throughout the year. The technology department also did a complete overhaul of our current wireless infrastructure that went from a wireless access randomly place throughout the school where needed to a managed Extreme Networks system that consisted of one access point per classroom. We also further developed our in-house professional development during our monthly early release schedule to cater more to the level our teachers felt comfortable with in offering 4 different sessions for all different skill levels. In May of 2016, our Building Level Administrators and Director of Technology presented our Blending Learning (1-to-1 implementation) proposal in front of Barr-Reeve School Board Members, engaged community members, and teachers. The presentation was accepted with unanimous support from the board to start during the 2016-17 school year. You can view the presentation here:

http://www.barr.k12.in.us/UserFiles/Servers/Server_107683/File/Corporation/Technology/Blended%20Learning%20Presentation%20.pdf

Summer of 2016 (Year 3): Barr-Reeve took the leap with support from teachers and school board to start our Blending Learning (1-to-1) Implementation in grades 2-12. We have seen great strides in teacher instruction with the incorporation of technology to complement their current classroom textbook. We look forward to continual growth as we are seeing teachers step out of their comfort zones and into the next level of our educational journey at Barr-Reeve.

Future Project Goal #1

Our over-arching goal to impact both pedagogy and instruction is to create a flexible infrastructure that will lay the foundation for digital learning and resources, sharing and creating information and content, and developing common assessments. Positive professional development with a clear vision and focus must be presented to all staff members in order to correlate with the new infrastructure. In achieving this goal, Barr-Reeve would like to incorporate an outside entity that will help further our professional development for our teachers. On June 22nd, 2017, we will also be partnering with Washington Community Schools to offer The Suite Life: A Summer of eLearning opportunity for our teachers to have additional professional development.

Future Project Goal #2

Barr-Reeve will continue a proactive and focused technology leadership team who shares the vision of an integrated technological education experience. This team will educate and encourage all stakeholders who in turn will embrace and empower others to be leaders in creating technological change as we move our teachers and students into the Digital Age of education and college and career readiness.

Strategies for Goal #3

(1) A technology stakeholder team will be created consisting of students, parents, teachers, administrators, and community members who have a real vision of technological advancements for Barr-Reeve students and will take an active and vocal role in supporting and ensuring this shared vision.

(2) The technology leadership team will work to create a positive environment where staff members embrace digital learning and engage technology at every available opportunity. Curriculum director and professional development coaches will provide opportunities for teachers to network, practice, and share digital ideas and be involved in the curriculum selection process.