

## 2015-2016 Yearend Technology Update for Families

We've been engaging and empowering students at all grade levels with new tools in our classrooms. In service of their students, staff have been actively engaged in learning as well. Check out our progress this spring!

**ENGAGE.** This April, just over 900 Android Tablets were deployed across all kindergarten and first grade classrooms in the district. With support from teachers in how to safely and nicely use the devices, students are accessing applications to develop math skills, write, find information, read and listen to books. With eight Tablets per classroom, students are typically using these in small groups, with a partner, or at a learning center.

In our middle and high schools, five teachers and their students are piloting the use of student email. Through this pilot, teachers are able to integrate the use of Gmail with Google Classroom to provide students feedback on assignments, grades, and regular classroom communication. Students can communicate with each other and their teachers within the Auburn School District. Feedback from these pilot participants is informing our next steps in expanding this service to secondary students in the coming year.



**EDUCATE.** In addition to educating students, we've been busy this year educating staff. Instructional Technology Support Specialists serve in each school - teachers who take on additional responsibilities for training and supporting their colleagues in the use of technology. Collectively they have offered over 250 hours of professional development to other teachers. On our first sunny day in April, we also hosted our first annual #techconnect district workshop that brought over 150 teachers together for the day to learn and share ideas around classroom technology integration. Aside from one keynoter, all other presenters were teacher leaders in Auburn. Participation by presenters and attendees shows a high level of commitment to successful technology implementation for our students!



**EMPOWER.** In addition to Google Apps for Education (GAPE), teachers are using a growing number of educational technology tools in our classrooms. Perhaps you've heard your child talk about using Kahoot, Nearpod, or Padlet? Kahn Academy may be a key math resource for your child. Or Snap & Read for text support? Services were enhanced this spring through the doubling of our internal bandwidth. To further extend what's available to students at school and home, we're very excited about our new partnership with the King County Library System launched this month providing students full access to the Library's online services using their ASD student number.

As we close the school year, we are surveying a sampling of students to gather feedback on their experience with increased technology in our classrooms. As we hear their voices through this data, we will adjust our plans and training so they are engaged, educated, and empowered through your levy investment.

Thank you for your continued support. For additional questions you may contact the Department of Technology Help Desk: [helpdesk@auburn.wednet.edu](mailto:helpdesk@auburn.wednet.edu), or call us at 253.931.4940.