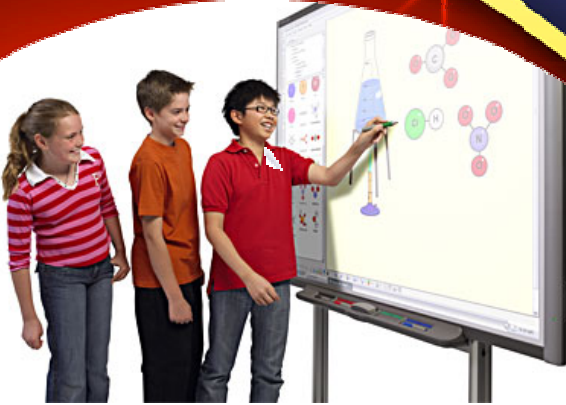


# Technology Improves Academic Achievement



Dear Northshore Christian Academy Families,

The speed of change has become a defining characteristic of the information age. The impact of this shift is global and far-reaching; connecting people, families, and local communities in new ways. In the past decade, technology has opened a new world of opportunities for students of all ages, making it possible for more individuals than ever to access knowledge and to learn in new and different ways.

This rapid change in Technology has swept Northshore Christian Academy along with it. Northshore was one of the early adopters of having our own school website. Our site launched around the same time that a little company named Google launched its prototype search engine. It was only five years ago that the school had one dialup connection for Internet access. No teacher had a school email address and only two phones were available for the whole school. Only two years ago the entire database of information for the school was stored on Excel spreadsheets with no way of tying information together.

Since then, we have created two computer labs with 50 computers. We have established a high speed network with servers to store data and manage files. We have begun to integrate projectors and document cameras into the classrooms. We have established a database for the entire school. Parents can now check grades and homework online. We have acquired software to help students with presentations, word processing, spreadsheets, typing, photo editing, animation, programming, video editing and build web pages.

Once again Northshore is going through rapid change with technology. We have upgraded to cable for our Internet connection and for access to educational programming. We have added two new servers, new switches, and new computers with flat screen monitors in the computer lab. We are also looking forward to even more enhancements throughout the year.

Technology funding is now a priority to establish our students, teachers, staff, and parents with the resources to enhance our schools excellence now and in the future.

We have five goals to improve our school through the use of technology:

## **Technology to Improve our School to Home Connection**

Accelerated Reading has been an important part of our students' reading success. We will be implementing the new completely online AR Enterprise Edition. This will include the new Home Connect that will link the school and home to make reading practice even more effective. By logging on from their home computer, students and parents can see progress toward reading goals, conduct book searches, review quiz results, view number of books read, words read, and quizzes passed. Parents will also be able to view "My Words Learned" based on Vocabulary Practice Quizzes and students will have access to more than 120,000 quizzes at school and better analysis of reading levels.

Parents are using the new Broadband ParentsWeb. It is a very attractive, highly graphical, dashboard-driven version of our previous Classic ParentsWeb.

### **Technology to Improve Learning for Students**

We have currently installed brand new robust CPUs and flat screen monitors in one of our labs. These computers are capable of handling 3D and Video applications that students use in class. The old lab computers have made their way into classrooms. This allows our students better access for working on projects as well as using accelerated math and reading. We have also added Kidspiration. Created for K-5 learners, Kidspiration develops thinking, literacy and numeracy skills using proven visual learning principles. In reading and writing, Kidspiration strengthens word recognition, vocabulary, comprehension and written expression. With new visual math tools, students build reasoning and problem solving skills. Computer classes as well as classroom teachers will use this new program to help students start new projects.

Thanks to our parents' successful fundraising efforts and generous contributions we have installed Promethean Boards (interactive white boards) in all 32 Kindergarten through 8th Grade classrooms, plus digital projectors, new computers and document cameras. We have also purchased "BrainPop" software for use on the Promethean Boards.

### **Technology Training for Teachers**

For teachers to be effective with the current and new technology and to make the most out of the tools we have, support and training will be provided. We will give teachers training in new ways to present and deliver material to their students.

### **Technology to Upgrade our Infrastructure**

A new server for students has been installed with larger capacity to store student information and a much more reliable environment for them to use. A lab full of students using programs like Google Earth to do research has brought our current Internet connection to a crawl. The new and faster connections to the Internet mean more time getting projects done and more tools available to use.

Thank you for making it possible for our students to excel through technology.

Kristian Peterson  
NCA Technology Chair

### **How technology helps your kids**

The following outcomes were among ICT's key findings: interactive whiteboard use results in improved student performance in national tests in English, math and science, compared to student performance without interactive whiteboards; digital content on interactive whiteboards is engaging, motivating, and students pay more attention during lessons; and interactive whiteboard use encourages greater student participation in the classroom. *-ICT impact report December 2006.*

According to ISTE's Information Technology in Education, comparison studies show that students who learn using technology show higher achievement as well as more positive attitudes towards learning than students who are not using technology.