

As the 2021-22 school year concludes, it is time to publish our end of the year report on what is happening within the Digital Teaching and Learning (DTL) program. We are currently in Year 2 of 5 in our grant. As a district, we are working towards the following goals: “Improve teacher competence in using Canvas, our learning management system, Google’s Suite for Education and its productivity and collaborative tools, and MasteryConnect, our formative assessment system, as well as develop teacher competencies in effective digital teaching and learning practices.”

To meet the needs of these goals, the DTL Specialist has collaborated with other departments in the district. One of the main purposes of the digital teaching and learning grant is to provide teacher training across the district. To accomplish this, the digital teaching and learning specialist has enlisted teachers at several secondary and elementary schools to be the digital teaching and learning specialist at their building. This building level DTL specialist provides opportunities for teachers to become more engaged with Canvas, Google suite for education, and MasteryConnect. Their primary responsibility is to provide professional learning to teachers in their building.

The DTL team has been tracking data on how many teachers have been worked with throughout the 2020-21 and the 2021-22 school year. During the 2020-21 school year, we worked with 744 teachers. This year, we have worked with 1147 teachers. In addition to people worked with, we also track hours that we spent with the teachers. Last year, we spent 81 hours, and this year, it was 290 hours. We’ve seen nearly triple the amount of people worked with and time spent learning about technology integration in the classroom.

Teachers in the schools have responded with enthusiasm and appreciation. The feedback that has been received in regards to the DTL program has been positive. Teachers have commented that they appreciate the time to get specific instruction to their needs and how it has helped PLC to run more efficiently. At Sky View High School and other DTL schools, teachers have had additional training. Teachers at Sky View have provided the following feedback: “I found Technology Thursday to be very helpful...” as well as “I really appreciated the Tech Thursday that I attended! I have had access to a school iPad this whole school year, but I have not used it much because I didn’t really understand the diversity of ways I could use it as a teacher. I am excited to implement the information I learned about how it can actually save time and help me give my students specific, timely feedback.”

In addition to building level support, the district has also been offering an afterschool professional learning series that teachers have the opportunity to attend. This afterschool opportunity provides teachers with a chance to learn from specialists from throughout the state, including UEN. The purpose of providing professional learning is to allow teachers to become more proficient in the utilization of the previously-mentioned tools. The digital teaching and learning team receives professional learning not only within our district and throughout our state but also by attending conferences where they are kept abreast of the most up-to-date practices from nationally recognized speakers and presenters.