

Sachem Central School District



Instructional Technology Update

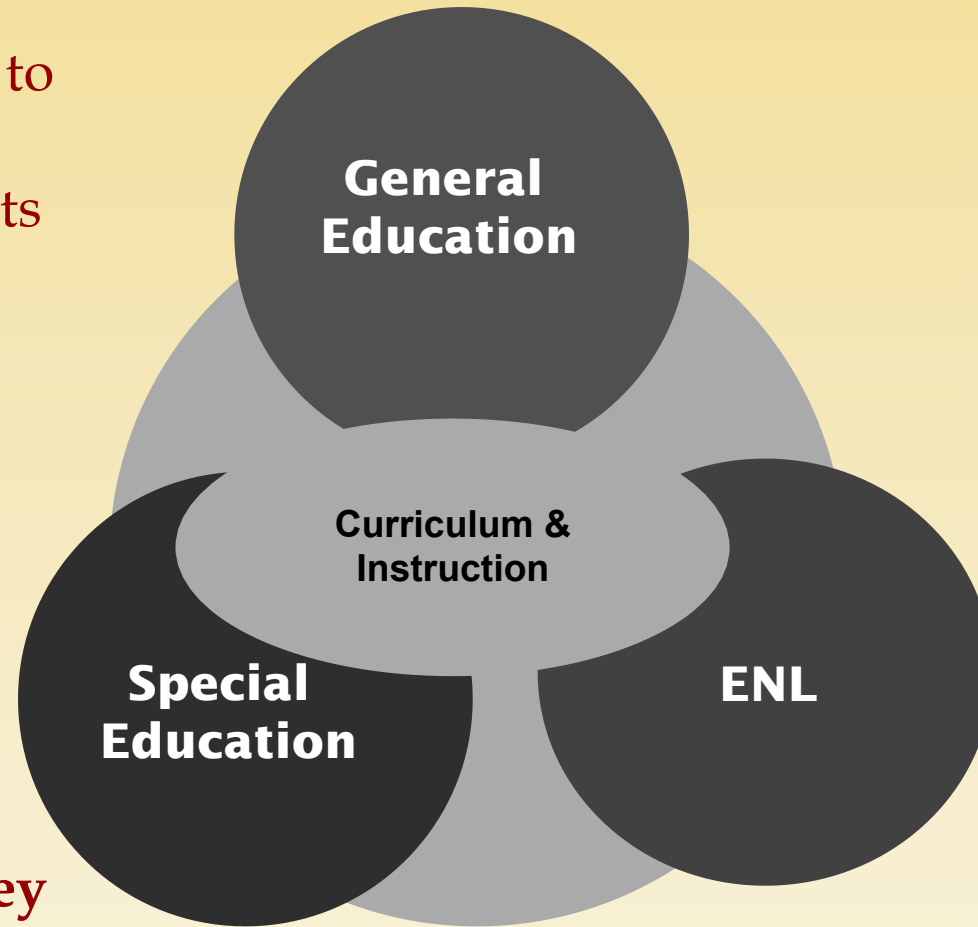
Office of Curriculum and Instruction

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January 20, 2021

Curriculum and Instruction ~Our Beliefs~

- Mastery vs. Coverage
- Teachers should have autonomy to teach their curriculum at a pace based on the needs of the students in front of them.
- Use data to make these instructional choices “Sachem Norms”
- District-created curriculum vs. canned programs
- Collaboration is key
- Students unpack own learning
- Equal access for all
- Students can show you what they know in many ways



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Overview & History

- Since the fall of 2017, the district revitalized its focus on integrating technology and instructional learning platforms to deepen the learning experience for students.
- Professional development has been conducted for all instructional staff to utilize Google Suite tools for teaching, learning and assessment. This has grown to include additional instructional technology platforms like *Nearpod, Screencastify Kami, etc.*
- Parent and community workshops and resources have been conducted, provided to strengthen communication ties between school and home.
- Yearly purchases have increased device usage across the district as well as allowed for upgrades to our infrastructure.
- While the pandemic has brought about many stressors, positively, it shined a light on the necessity for technology and the hard work we carried out to ensure our varied learners' needs are met.



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Current Technology Equipment

- We have outfitted all classrooms with Webcams and the necessary technology to begin streaming.
- We have been running staff development opportunities on our various classroom technologies and our Google Classroom platforms.
- Our Staff Development team has been working diligently to update our IT Google Classroom to develop a Playbook for streaming, and are now finalizing a video tutorial to also include.
- We are customizing instructional devices necessary for streaming pilot classrooms and building digital resource libraries, as we look to future classroom needs
- The Smart Schools work is making great strides in all project areas, including the outfitting of our High Schools to get wireless complete and enhance our instruction at the secondary level.



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Completed Infrastructure Upgrades

- Sachem had two Internet connections at Samoset and East, functioning at a maximum of 1Gbps each.
- Based on the recommended bandwidth for a Google Meet of 6.4Mbps, we began discussions to upgrade to a minimum of 6.4Gbps to account for approximately 1,000 streams.
- To account for this potential and our additional internet needs, we requested to move to 8Gbps
- To complete the upgrade, at each site, we upgraded the Internet router and installed a new DMZ switch. Our fiber vendor also completed necessary fiber splices at the street and installed commensurate equipment to accommodate the bandwidth.
- The cutover took place on **Saturday, January 9, 2021**



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1:1 Device Strategic Plan

- This year, 2200 new Chromebook devices were purchased. (Some as early as last summer!-A portion of the purchase was through a grant allocation.)
- Finally, these devices are being delivered and are being readied for student and staff usage.
- All classroom teachers Grades 9-12 will be outfitted with a device to ensure our instructional technology platforms run optimally and learn the usefulness and/or limitations of the devices.
- Remaining devices will be loaned to wait listed families that have identified a need. (These families will be contacted.)
- Professional development will continue for staff and students as needed.
- As more devices are purchased, we will deploy these to our secondary students. Wireless laptop carts in the secondary buildings will then be added to the current carts in the elementary buildings.
- A more detailed roll out plan will be presented as we identify additional purchasing sources.

Live Streaming via Google Meet

- We are excited the completed infrastructure work means we can now turn on our Google Meet cameras and begin to live stream from our classrooms!
- It will begin for all on February 1st. Currently, staff is piloting with remote learners, testing equipment, working with our office for a smooth transition.
- Live streaming via Google Meet will occur for hybrid, quarantined and any “new to remote” learners in the district.
- Secondary students will utilize their period schedule for live Google Meets
- Elementary students will log on during ELA, Math and Science/Social Studies/SEL lessons. Specials and services will be provided by the individual teachers on separate Google Meets/Classrooms.



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Feedback Work Groups

- The district created workgroups to involve administrative and teacher leadership as we begin to provide Google Meet Live Streaming and to monitor our strategic plan for a 1:1 device roll out.
- Work groups meet weekly to troubleshoot, discuss next steps.
- The workgroups inform ongoing professional development needs.
- Building visits are being conducted in conjunction with the workgroup sessions to support our staff's needs.



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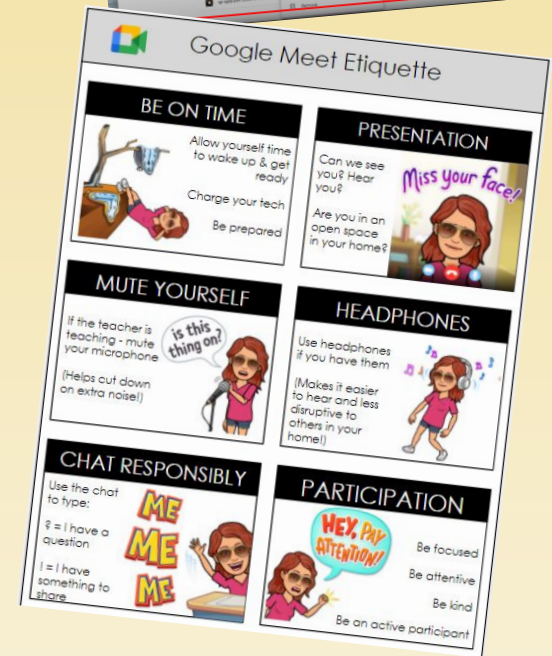
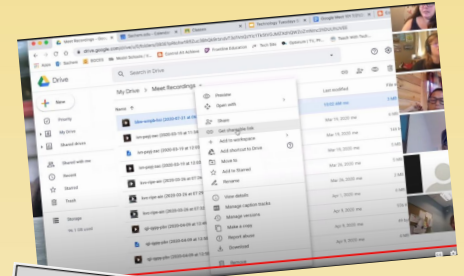




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Thank you



Questions?

Comments?