

News Release

Dobbs Ferry School District Presents at Tech Expo 2014; Launching a Successful Laptop 1:1 Rollout in Schools

Dobbs Ferry, N.Y., April 10, 2014— Administrators and technology personnel from the Dobbs Ferry School District will be conducting a breakout session on “How to Launch a Successful 1:1 Laptop Deployment in Middle and High School,” at the 8th annual Tech Expo 2014 on April 11th. The all-day conference, which will be held at the Edith Macy Conference Center in Briarcliff Manor, features keynote speaker Diane Ravitch, former Assistant Secretary of Education. At last year’s Expo, the Dobbs Ferry School District received the Pioneer Award for Excellence in Instructional Technology.

Superintendent Dr. Lisa Brady, High School Principal John Falino, Middle School Principal Patrick Mussolini and Director of Technology Terance Huyter will be discussing their collective experiences in planning for the expansion of technology to advance student learning. The process began in 2012 when the District decided to utilize Google Apps for Education (GAFE is a web-based app) and incorporate gmail, google docs and google drive into its technology suite. Google Docs in particular allows for real-time collaboration which is a key benefit for both teaching and learning.

The next step was to pull together a student research and development team, made up of 10th graders, who would “test-drive” and compare the iPad with the Chromebook. The decision was unanimous as the students preferred the Chromebooks for the upper level grades and liked the iPad for the younger grades. Last year the District launched its pilot Chromebook program starting with 7th and 9th grade students. Next year, 5th, 8th and 10th graders will also receive individual Chromebooks, with 6th graders to follow in the second half of the year. Students not only use these devices in school, but the District also allows them to take the Chromebooks home. Basically the Chromebook operates as an internet “connector” and is used as an online collaboration tool.

Dr. Brady had previously come from a school district where a 1:1 program was flourishing and was keen on introducing the program in Dobbs Ferry. The Dobbs Ferry School District first conducted a technology audit in January 2012 to determine the schools’ technology needs and usage to help drive future technology planning. The District then worked closely with technology consultant Rob Mancabelli, (also a keynote speaker at Tech Expo this year) to formulate specific technology goals to support the District’s new three-year Strategic Plan. . He helped initiate the first Clarity Technology Survey or assessment last year, with a follow-up one happening right now.

Technology Director Terance Huyter will discuss what a 1:1 program actually looks like and the initial implementation steps to take for starting a similar Chromebook pilot in other school districts. He will also cover other important areas such as security, policies, push technology, grade-level teams, instructional components, parent involvement, leadership and most importantly how to integrate the device into the classroom and curriculum. Professional development is a key ingredient to making the 1:1 program work.

“This presentation is really about our journey, where we were and where we are going,” said Mr. Huyter. “Our goal continues to be finding educational technology solutions to enhance teaching and learning.”

For more information, please contact:

Public Information Officer, Elizabeth Hausman (914) 693-1500 x3013