



LTCS Technology Plan

Purpose:

As the use of computers and other technology resources becomes increasingly relevant and necessary in daily life, La Tierra Community School strives to educate technologically literate students. By integrating technology into the classroom, curriculum and strategic planning of the school the learning environment for students, faculty, staff, and families will be enhanced. Students will be able to utilize technology as an effective tool to access information, express their ideas, communicate their comprehension of information, and articulate their understanding. Faculty and staff will be able to integrate technology into their teaching and daily work to create a diverse and effective learning environment. Increased usage of technology will allow for clear and timely communication between all community members while promoting transparency.

Student Needs:

- Access to computers for web based testing, test prep and benchmark testing including AZELLA, AASA, AZSCI, and Galileo
- Regular exposure to and instruction in use of computers and other technology resources
- A higher level of familiarity and comfort with computers and their basic functions for testing and regular academic work
- A greater understanding of how technology will be integrated and utilized in their academic work
- Basic computer and software literacy
- Limited access to wireless printing and scanning

Faculty & Staff Needs:

- Access to working computers and other peripheral equipment used daily in the classroom
 - Regular replacement of computers to ensure classroom instruction and teacher's preparation is not limited by available resources
- Professional development on web based curriculum resources and lesson plans
 - Differentiated instruction
- Dedicated access to Technology management for both Faculty/Staff and student needs, could be in form of dedicated staff position or virtual assistance
- Wireless printing and scanning

Strategic Goals:

- 1:1 technology access for students schoolwide
 - Acquire enough student computers to establish a 3-year replacement cycle for grades 3-8 (Approximately 30 Chromebooks/year and 10 ipads per year)
 - Acquire laptop cart for each classroom grades 3-7/8 so each grade can be independent with necessary technology resources
 - Supplemental technology items like headphones
- Ensure that network and bandwidth on campus is robust enough to handle additional traffic and devices
- Upgrade each classroom with a wall panel monitor
 - Identify replacement/upgrade cycle based on use
- Establish a 5-year replacement cycle for Faculty & Staff computers (Approximately 3-5 devices per year to begin in 2025-2026)
- Develop training and opportunities for faculty to integrate new technology resources into their classroom(s)
- Investigate grants and other funding opportunities to improve access to technology school wide without the need to reconfigure budget for unplanned or one time expenses
- Identify new opportunities to integrate technology into curriculum to enhance student learning opportunities and provide professional development for faculty
- Develop and maintain school network and local data storage for Faculty and Staff use

Benchmarks:

1. Develop and approve technology plan including a timeline for purchasing necessary resources for students, faculty, and staff
2. Develop specific learning targets for students that demonstrate integration and utilization of computers and other technology for each grade level at LTCS
3. Develop and approve clear policies for technology use and purpose at LTCS
 - a. Include Acceptable Use policy for technology in Student & Parent handbook
4. Establish yearly professional development opportunities for faculty and staff on current technology resources and their effective practices
5. Integrate classroom resources and information into LTCS website for student and parent use
6. Establish an annual assessment tool for upcoming school year's technology needs and integrate findings into the annual budgeting process

Timeline:

1. Staff laptops were replaced in the 2020-2021 school year, and an additional 5 devices were purchased during the 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 school years.
 - a. Begin replacement cycle of staff computers in the 2025-2026 school year.
2. Invest in 2-4 panel monitors for upper grades during 2020-2021 school year based on grade configuration
3. Contract with E-rate through NAU lasts through 2025

Current Tech Resources:

1. 15 Apple Macbooks utilized by administrative and teaching staff (10 purchased in 2020, 4 purchased in 2021, 1 purchased in 2022)
2. 40 Apple ipads (all purchased in 2020), additional 10 purchased summer 2023 for K, 1st, 2nd grade students
3. 3 ipad carts purchased in 2020 for K, 1st, and 2nd grade classrooms
4. HP2011X Monitor plus Dell Inspiron 3847 from 2014 utilized by Office Administrator
5. 4 Touchscreen Chromebooks purchased for use in Title 1 2023
6. 5 Chromebooks for use in Special Education (3 purchased 2022, 2 purchased 2017)
7. 48 Chromebooks purchased between 2017-2021, 16 purchased in 2022, and 22 touchscreen chromebooks purchased in 2023 (total 86) for use among 3rd-8th grades.
8. 9 Classroom Projectors
9. 8 Document Cameras

Mission Statement:

La Tierra Community School provides an active, transformative educational experience and values a respect for diversity, academic rigor and a commitment to social and environmental justice. Our program uses the natural and cultural resources of the Southwest to foster local, relevant connections for children through learning expeditions. We value children's sense of curiosity and discovery as well as their ability to think critically, reflect upon their world and promote positive change in their community.

Guiding Principles:

Learning is Meaningful – La Tierra Community School embeds second language learning as part of each student's academic experience with up to an hour of *Spanish language instruction daily*. Through research we have discovered that learning a second language increases critical thinking skills, creativity, and flexibility of mind in young children.

Learning is Contemporary – All students at La Tierra are 21st Century learners with *one-to-one technology* capacity through the implementation of LearnPads. La Tierra has LearnPads in every classroom for technologically enhanced learning opportunities.

Learning is Collaborative – We are committed to the development of good character and thread a rich character education model into all areas of learning. Through character education, we foster *an ethic of social and cultural diversity*. We learn in an environment where we share ideas and work together to discover our greatest potential.

Learning is Challenging – Students of all ages wonder, notice and question their learning. Our learning model is based on cross-curricular thematic units of study (expeditions) that allow students to embrace *learning that has real-life applications*. Our approach to learning inspires innate connections to content and challenges students to grapple with ideas and apply new skills to real-world matters, inspiring all students to make positive change in their community.

Learning is Public – Students at La Tierra Community School demonstrate their learning accomplishments through a variety of exhibitions and presentations. Students learn to give and receive feedback from community members, peers and faculty, as their *public learning demonstrations* become avenues for continued growth.

Learning is Active – We aspire to provide *service to our community* and to be actively engaged in our community. Guiding questions inspire students to become activists, researchers, investigators, scientists, historians, developers and service-workers dedicated to citizen

scholarship. We spend days out in the field exploring concepts, engaging with experts and discovering our own truths.