

Leadership Action Plan

Part 3: Educational Research and Innovation

What innovations are you most excited about and why? What is their application to learning?

The innovation that I am most excited about is the use of iPads as an instructional tool. I am primarily interested in their potential to change the way teachers deliver instruction. Teaching with an iPad (when paired with an Apple TV) allows the teacher to do the following things fairly easily with minimal coaching:

1. Collect instant feedback from students (Socrative, NearPod, and eClicker apps.)
2. Select random students for classroom discussions (StickPick app.)
3. Present material from any location in the classroom.
4. Allow students to present material from any location in the classroom.
5. Share material (teacher and student created) using the built-in camera.
6. Record and post classroom presentations online (Explain Everything app.)
7. Post to a classroom website (Weebly, Wordpress, and Safari apps.)
8. Collect student work, add digital annotations and grades, and return work.
9. Use social media apps to learn new ideas, teaching strategies, and connect with other teachers.
10. Learn from and share a library of books, podcasts, and iTunes U courses.



These are just a handful of the ways teachers can use an iPad in their classroom to deliver instruction. There are thousands of apps that also deliver unique and engaging content specific to a teacher's grade level and/or content area.

How will you stay current on educational research and innovation? How will you share this knowledge with teachers in your building?

I will stay current on educational research and innovation by continuing to work with the other Education Technology Specialists. I have learned a great deal from them and expect that we will continue to learn from and teach each other.

I am also an active participant in social media networks including twitter, scoopit!, blogs, MOOC's and others. I will continue to learn and share through those networks.

I am scheduled to participate in Apple's online course on how to set up and create content using iTunes U. I am working with a colleague in Pennsylvania to design and release a ceramics course through iTunes U and present our work at the National Council on Education for the Ceramic Arts.

What technology tools will you use to effectively improve productivity and student learning? What technology tools will be the easiest to promote in your building?

The tools that will help me to best improve productivity are already in place, but are not always used effectively. Calendaring, email, and websites are already used but often aren't used to their fullest potential. I will model and teach the teaching in my schools how to schedule meetings, share files, and create websites to increase their communication and productivity.

Incorporating mobile technology tools to manage and access these tools will be helpful as well. As more and more teachers have access to iPads and smart phones, we can increase their comfort level in using these tools by teaching them how to access calendars, mail, and their websites on their mobile devices.

What technology tools will be most challenging?

The tools that will be the most challenging will be those that will require more dramatic changes to the way they currently teach and manage their classroom. Though these tools may in the end make teaching a certain subject or grade easier, they will require specialized training and ongoing support to maintain. The technology tools that are currently being implemented in my schools that require the most support include:

1. Canvas: helping teachers to manage classroom resources in an online learning environment.
2. UTIPS: building, sharing, managing, and interpreting online assessments.
3. iPad Labs: Device deployment and management as well as how to teach in a one-to-one environment.
4. Flipped Classrooms or Blended Learning Environments: Finding and using tools to create online content, learning how to manage online learning modules, learning how to teach and learn in various environments.



So, while there are some definite challenges with the technology tools listed above, there are a handful of teachers in each school who are finding success in using these tools. Their successes will spread through the school and more and more teachers will begin to see the benefits of using them in their teaching practices.