

Technology Spotlight 2010

The summer of 2010 was busy one as we upgraded and updated the technologies at Villa Madonna Academy. The technology department worked to update all Personal Computers with Office 2007 software, while simultaneously replacing some older PCs used by teachers with new laptops. As of August 2010, the school's technology infrastructure includes 208 PCs, 25 high-volume printers, 48 LCD Projectors, and 24 SMART Boards.

Classroom technologies expanded over the summer with the implementation of ten (10) additional SMART Boards, one in the High School and nine in the Elementary School. We added four LCD projectors to elementary school classrooms resulting in *every classroom at VMA* having computer projection capabilities.

Student use of technology in the classroom continues to increase. Students in our Jr. High and High School Science classes use laptop PCs along with sensors designed to work with computers to perform science experiments. There are twenty (20) PCs in Elementary classrooms for student use and this summer we added 15 mini laptop PCs on a cart for students in grades 4 – 6. The mini laptops are fully functional PCs that include Microsoft Office software, Internet access, and Kidspiration, Inspiration, Timeliner, and KidPix software.

In our High School, we added a new SMART Student Response system offering teachers the opportunity to instantly test lesson comprehension using mini quizzes projected on a SMART Board along with student 'clickers'. This new system helps teachers to gain insight into the learning process by providing an opportunity to check comprehension immediately after a lesson is completed. The students are responding well to this system, as it is both engaging and fully participative. Our High School Broadcast Journalism class also received a new portable professional lighting kit to use as they shoot videos throughout the school and in other locations.

Teachers have more technology resources available this school year as we expanded our use of document cameras by adding four new ones. Document cameras attach to a teacher's laptop. They offer the opportunity to project non-digital documents as well as microorganisms in Petri dishes via an LCD projector. Teachers also have classroom access to Discovery Education's United Streaming videos via the Internet. Discovery Education offers over 9,000 full-length videos via a subscription service.

Finally, we updated our school website this summer with new software, photos, and navigation paths.