

## Technology Spotlight 2009

After what seemed like months of gray skies and rain, the sun finally began to shine in early August and as we welcomed its warmth and brightness, we also welcomed our teachers back to school for the 2009-2010 academic year. As the teachers began to arrive, they were met with some changes and new technologies implemented by the Technology Department over the summer months.

During the months of June and July, the technology department, lead by Mrs. Lisa Desmarais and staffed by Ms. Tonya Gilbert (technology specialist) and a part-time data entry person, successfully implemented a new Student Record Keeping system to manage records for all students in grades K – 12. After several years of managing a host of non-integrated software systems, the team worked to consolidate multiple databases of information into a single, centralized record keeping system which supports biological, attendance, class scheduling, grading, health, and fees information. This new system reduces the amount of duplicate information previously recorded in multiple databases and provides for new functionalities such as online scheduling for High School students (spring of 2010) and improved access to information for parents via a new Parent Portal.

Coinciding with the implementation of the new Student Record Keeping system, the technology team worked with Mrs. Donna Crisler, Cafeteria Manager, to implement a new automated cafeteria management system. This system, linked to the new Student Record Keeping system, provides Mrs. Crisler with an automated solution to manage lunch selections for students, teachers and staff members. It also provides parents an online portal to view daily lunch selections made by their children and to fund deposit accounts online (fall of 2009). After the first couple of days to getting used to the system, Mrs. Crisler contacted Mrs. Desmarais and report, “This system is a dream come true!”

In addition to the new software systems, the technology team worked to replace aging PCs in the High School computer lab with 25 new PCs with state-of-the-art quad-core processing capabilities and upgraded 22" flat-screen (LCD) monitors. Twenty of the older PCs were removed and refurbished for use in the school's Elementary classrooms.

Classroom technologies continued to expand over the summer, including the implementation of 2 additional SMART Boards (computer interactive whiteboards) in the High School and 1 SMART Board in the Elementary School. In addition, 10 LCD projectors were added to 10 classrooms, two of which were High School classrooms resulting in every High School classroom having computer projection capabilities.

While the teachers continue to use more technology in the classroom, student use of technology in the classroom also continues to rise. Students in our Jr. High and High School Science classes use laptop PCs along with various sensors designed to work with computers to perform science experiments and labs in the Science classrooms. With the introduction of 20 PCs in the Elementary classrooms, students have more immediate access to information without having to leave the classroom to go to the library or computer lab. These increases in the availability of technologies in the classroom continue to move us closer to our goal of bringing the ‘technology to the student, instead of the student to the technology’.