

Below is a summary of the technology accomplishments for Villa Madonna Academy as measured against our 5-year strategic plan developed in 2001. For more detail regarding these accomplishments, please contact Lisa Desmarais, Technology Director, at [ldesmarais@villamadonna.net](mailto:ldesmarais@villamadonna.net).

## Villa Madonna Academy – Technology Program

In November of 2001, Villa Madonna Academy developed a 5-year strategic plan with particular focus on the implementation, enhancement and maintenance of technology at the school. This plan was the first formal Technology Plan developed and documented for the school.

In January of 2006, we completed an analysis of our performance to the 2001 plan. We did this because we felt that it was important to document the items that have been accomplished and are thus, in place, as a foundation for building and expanding our technology curriculum and infrastructure for our students, teachers and staff members in the future.

In 2001, our goals were to improve the integration of technology into the school's overall curriculum, to implement training programs and workshops aimed at improving the level of technology skills for teachers and staff members, to implement strategies to sustain and replace technology products, to provide ongoing training and technical assistance, and to expand & improve access to personal computers, the Internet, and other technology tools in all areas of the school. In 2006, we continue to focus our efforts on these goals.

**Curriculum Enhancements:** Since 2001, we have expanded the High School Technology Curriculum to include new courses in website design and creation, graphic design, and computer programming. Our High School Journalism class has converted the school newspaper and school yearbook to a fully automated solution using industry standard desktop publishing software products.

We have expanded the Jr. High School Technology Curriculum to include the study of computer hardware and software, keyboarding, Microsoft Office Products, and Internet Researching techniques. We have also, expanded the Elementary School Technology Curriculum to include keyboarding, Microsoft Office Products and Graphical Concept Mapping using Inspiration and Kidspiration software products.

In 2004, we introduced a new curriculum to address the issues of Internet Safety and Use. We also implemented a new Internet-based software tool into the Jr. High and High School curricula, Turnitin.com, to help manage plagiarism.

**Professional Development:** In September 2001, the High School and Elementary School Principals required that each teacher include in his/her performance goals at least one goal aimed at improving the teacher's individual technology skills and use of technology in the curriculum. This continues to be part of the goal requirements for both High School and Elementary School teachers.

Over the past 5 years, teachers have attended several technology training sessions. All teachers have completed training classes on how to update teacher web pages in the Villa Madonna Academy website. Some have participated in classes on various Microsoft products. Several teachers have pursued individual sessions with Technology Department staff. These sessions have been tailored to the needs of the individual.

All new teachers are required to attend a 3-hour Technology Training session upon joining the faculty. In this session, the teacher receives his/her laptop and is shown how to use it in the classroom. Additionally, teachers are briefed on the VMA e-mail system, grading system, daily attendance system and other internal systems.

**Technology Infrastructure Enhancements:** Since 2001, the technology hardware, software and networking environment at VMA has grown significantly.

**In 2001,** we:

- equipped all teachers with laptop computers to be used in the classroom
- wired all classrooms with Ethernet connections to the VMA Server

**In 2002,** we:

- upgraded access to the VMA network and the Internet via a wireless solution for most classrooms
- implemented a new, faster connection to the Internet via cable
- replaced the VMA server with a newer, faster model offering more processing power, disk capacity, and an automated disaster recovery solution.
- implemented a new VMA website to expand the scope of information provided to parents, students, and others interested in learning more about VMA. This new website provides an easy to use administration system which allows teachers to independently update their web pages.
- installed an automated voice mail system and equipped each classroom with a telephone.

**In 2003,** we:

- replaced the PCs in the High School Computer Lab with new, state-of-the art personal computers. This replacement enabled us to move the existing PCs into the Elementary Lab, thereby providing the elementary students with access to personal computers and the Internet.
- installed a new Library Automation software system to enable systematic tracking of all Elementary and High School library books, tapes, video equipment, etc. This system provides library personnel with the ability to bar code all items in the library and to systematize the check in and check out processes of library inventory.
- implemented the Teacher Grade Entry system within the current School Records Management system to enable teachers to directly enter grades for their students. This was done to streamline office processes and move away from the former “data entry” model of records management.

**In 2004,** we:

- implemented the use of SMART boards in the high school classrooms and purchased 3 new In-focus projectors. This effort was fueled by the desire to continue to integrate technology into the curriculum and to expand the use of technology within the classroom.
- implemented the Turnitin.com plagiarism management Internet-based software system for High School and Jr. High School students
- implemented a new e-mail system on the VMA server to enable teachers and staff to communicate with each other, parents, alumni, etc. in more efficient and effective manner.

**In 2005,** we:

- replaced the PCs in the office and administrative areas with new PC's and replaced 3 printers on the VMA network
- upgraded the VMA server to Windows Server 2003 and Exchange Server 2003. This was done to ensure that critical day-to-day operational activities could continue and not be disrupted by older PCs and/or older software.

As of January 2006, the technology environment has expanded to include 146 Personal Computers, 20 Mac computers (7 network capable), 1 upgraded Network Server (For PC's, Printers, Wireless Access Points, Internet Access), 12 Networked Printers, 30 Wireless Access Points, 2 SMART Boards, 6 In-Focus Projectors, 1 Automated Telephone and Voice Mail System, 1 Automated Tone System, 1 Wireless Sign for Messaging, an Automated Sound & Lighting System in the Theatre, 1 Cable Modem communications connection for Internet access, 146 installations of standard Microsoft programs (Word, PowerPoint, Excel, Access), 25 installations of Adobe PageMaker, 29 installations of Adobe Photoshop, a School Records Management system, a Donations Management System, a Fund Raising Records Management System, a Daily Attendance and Lunch Count system, a Library Automation System, a networked E-Mail System, and a dynamically managed Website Administration System.