

1:1 iPads @ WUS

Wayland Union Schools is beginning the third year of a 1:1 iPad initiative for grades 7-12. Teachers and students are utilizing iPads to enhance instruction and increase communication and productivity. The use of iPads in instruction at Wayland Union Schools continues to make learning more interactive for students and teaches skills that are essential for careers and postsecondary education.

Students use iPads in several content areas for research and are learning Information Literacy skills. Information literacy is the ability to find, analyze, and use information found from a variety of sources. This skill set includes finding information that is accurate and reliable and using it to add to their own knowledge. This skill is an essential 21st century skill as it promotes lifelong learning and teaches students how learn independently.

How iPads Are Being Used

Students use iPads to create products that demonstrate their learning of a specific topic or concept. *Pic Collage* is a very popular application that is used on the iPad. Students can combine pictures and text to create visual posters to demonstrate their

understanding of a concept or topic. Students at the middle school have used *Pic Collage* to demonstrate their understanding of the Five Themes of Geography, Food Webs, and create poetry books using both *Pic Collage* and *Educreations*, a screen recording app. Mrs. Schreiber and Mrs. Thebo's 8th grade history classes use tools such as *Today's Meet* to facilitate discussions and *DocTeach* to allow students to interact with primary sources. Eighth grade teachers use an app called *ReadNRespond* to help students comprehend informational text.



Students in Mr. Robinson's Physics class use their iPads to collect data.

iPads are also being used to support exploratory classes! Students in music classes use apps like *Piano Virtuoso*, *APS Music Master Pro* to fine tune their music skills. Students in Life Skills class at the Middle School and Health class at the High school use apps like *Big Fork*, *Little Fork* and *myfitnesspal* to research and track healthy eating habits.

iPads are also used to increase communication and student productivity. All students in grades 7 through 12 are able to utilize Infinite Campus' mobile app on their iPads to keep track of their grades. Students have access to their grades at all times, this helps them to stay on top of their grades and keep up on missing assignments.

iPads are changing the way our teachers teach and our students learn. Teachers and students at Wayland Union Schools benefit from having immediate access to technology tools like iPads. Students are learning essential skills that will follow them into their adult lives and help them be successful in college and careers.



This student is discussing an on-line "Gizmo" learning activity.



This student is using an on-line "Gizmo" to explore body systems.

Enhancing Instruction

In addition to iPads in grades 7-12, Students at Wayland Union Schools utilize technology to assist in their learning in other ways. Elementary and Middle school students have access to online "Gizmos."

Gizmos are created by Explore Learning® to give students hands on experience with science and math concepts. Gizmos are being used in third through eighth grade classrooms across the district in order to enhance math and science instruction. Gizmos have proven to increase proficiency in students on topics that have historically been difficult for students to comprehend due to their abstract nature. The Gizmos give students the opportunity to take a hands-on approach to an abstract topic.

Our teachers and students use iPads, netbooks, computer labs, and other technology rich tools to present information and concepts to students using a variety of resources and methods every day.

Inspire
 Information Literacy
 eBooks
 Technology
 iPads
 Challenge
 Integration
 Contribute
 Google Apps for Education
 Podcast, Computer, Internet, Collaboration, Cyber Safety, Documents, Games, Efficiency, Communication, Classroom Response Systems, Productivity, Auto-Enhancement



Wayland Union Schools Awarded \$35,000 in the Follett Challenge

In January 2014, Wayland Union Schools submitted our newly implemented Media Program as a nomination to the Follett Challenge, a national competition that recognizes innovative programs in schools.

With the new Media program, students in grades K-5 visit the school library twice a week, once to checkout books and once to have a class on Information Literacy. Topics for the course range from learning about different types of books, learning research skills, and learning and practicing internet safety. Our Media and Technology Specialist for grades 5-8, Kelly Boston, headed up the Follett Challenge entry and worked collaboratively with students, teachers, and administrators to create the submission video which highlighted the new program and how it has impacted our school and school district.

Voting for the competition began in March 2014. Students, staff, the community, our area businesses and public library, as well as family and friends of students and staff worked together to spread the word about the Follett Challenge to earn votes for our school, in doing so we also spread awareness of our program to people who would have otherwise likely not heard about it. That in and of itself has been so positive as it reinforces the need for students to learn these skills to pre-



Representatives from Follett School Solutions presented Wayland Union Schools with the Semi-Finalists Trophy for the Follett Challenge. The school was one of four semi-finalists nationwide. Kelly Boston, Media Specialist and Teresa Fulk, Director of Media and Technology, are shown with Ken Cook and John Jakelja from Follett.

pare them for college and careers. In a time when school districts have been cutting library and media programs and resources, it has definitely been a blessing to be able to add and support a Media Program.

We were so ecstatic to finish in the Top Ten and be awarded \$5,000 based on votes for our program from our students, staff, and community but were elated to be named as a semi-finalist and awarded \$30,000 on top of that. Winning the \$35,000 is allowing us to add so many resources to our district libraries, these resources would have taken several years to add otherwise. We are investing a substantial portion of the award funds into *eBooks* and are pro-

moting summer reading for our students. Parents love that even though our school doors are closed for the summer, our libraries are still open for business online. We are also investing in print resources and updating our collection. We utilized Follett's services and were able to conduct collection analyses at each of our sites and determine where we needed to enhance our collection. The Follett Challenge will significantly decrease the average age of materials at each of our sites.

Our district Media Program is taught by Travis Jonker, Amy Huyck, Kelly Boston, and Julie Oddy.

Improving Communication

Wayland Union Schools is working to improve communication with our students, parents, staff, and community. A wealth of information can be located on our website including past issues of our quarterly *Green & White* newsletter, information about our district and schools, the district calendar, and also links to Board Members, Schools, Teachers, Staff, and Administrators. Our website is available at: www.wayland.k12.mi.us

Wayland Union Schools utilizes Infinite Campus for our student information system. Over the last few years, we have been working to make Infinite Campus a one-stop-shop for communicating important information to our students and parents. In addition to traditional student information system parent access features like grades and attendance, Infinite Campus allows the district to increase communication in many other ways, including:

- Online registration for new and returning families.
- Self Service, allows parents to change phone numbers, addresses, etc. at a time when it is convenient for them.
- Messenger, which allows the district to send communications to parents, staff, and students in a variety of formats. The district utilizes this service for closings and other pertinent communications, including weekly missing assignment notifications.
- Food Service, parents can log in and view what their student ate for the day and deposit money into their lunch account in real time.
- Online payments, parents can pay fees, lunch accounts, and other payments.

Typically school districts need to subscribe to several different services that accomplish all of the features listed above. Utilizing Infinite Campus allows Wayland Union School to simplify communications, providing parents with one login to access all of tools. If you are a Wayland Union Schools parent, please check our website for information on signing up!

Wayland Union Schools has embraced the power of social networking to keep our community up-to-date



with special events, district celebrations, and other important news. Consider “following “ us on Twitter or “Becoming a Fan” us on Facebook.

New in 2014, the District has started a new “green initiative” with an electronic flyer system called Peachjar. This cuts down on the amount of paper sent home and instead send important flyers directly to parent’s inboxes. These flyers are also posted on our website.

In addition to all of the resources and information available from the district, several teachers have created websites to inform parents and students of lesson plans and to provide supplemental materials for their classes. Links to teacher websites can be found on each school site on the district website. Be sure to check the sites often!

