

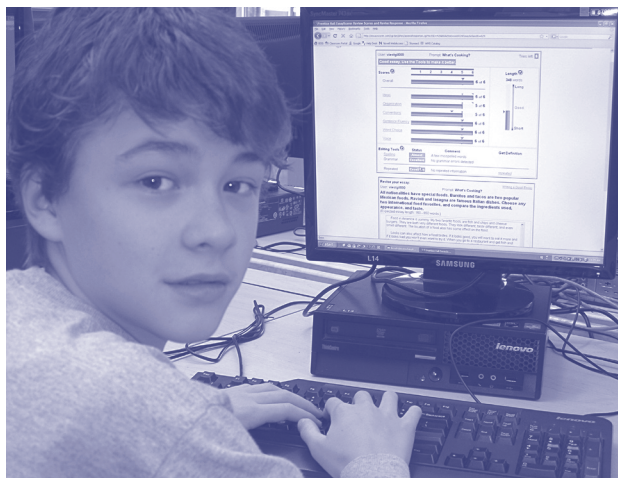
Technology that Engages and Compels

TECHNOLOGY IS AN INTEGRAL PART of student learning. It supports, rather than replaces, successful teaching methods. Technological tools help students acquire and apply academic skills, conduct research, analyze data, and communicate and collaborate with teachers and peers. Using technology, teachers are better able to access educational resources for daily lessons, personalize instruction, monitor student learning, and provide feedback to students. Here are two examples of day-to-day learning through technology:



Students in Enrique Chee's BHS physics class (above) use probeware, educational hardware and software, for real-time data acquisition, display, and analysis. Motion sensors, photogates and interfaces allow them to predict and then track the position, velocity and acceleration of a moving object. They observe data displayed in a variety of formats as it is being collected. Chee explains, "Probeware allows students to perform new experiments with measurements not previously possible in a classroom." These are the types of tools utilized in post-secondary education and work settings.

"I often engage students in experiments before the lesson, because it grabs their attention and encourages discovery," comments Chee. "I build a lesson on top of their discoveries." Making and interpreting observations is a lifelong skill, and technology allows that skill to naturally develop in real time, real discovery.



Sakai students (above) learn successful writing techniques with their teacher's instruction and the use of a software program, *WriteToLearn*. This web-based, award-winning learning tool helps students develop their ideas, organization, word choice, sentence fluency, voice, and conventions. After working with their teacher on specific writing skills, students can electronically submit initial written drafts, and they receive and value the immediate feedback on these writing traits. "It has improved my writing, because I can immediately know what I did wrong," commented one student.

The *WriteToLearn* program allows teachers to personalize instruction. The teacher is able to evaluate each student's draft and send notes with suggestions on how to further improve their writing. Class time can then be spent following up with individual students. This program also provides individual and class data regarding students' strengths and weaknesses and allows the teacher to adjust instruction.

See video clips of the *WriteToLearn* program and how a teacher uses *Google Earth* on the Sakai website, <http://moodle.bainbridge.wednet.edu/mod/book/view.php?id=18536>.

Have some fun with virtual math manipulatives, go to: http://nlvm.usu.edu/en/nav/grade_g_2.html. You'll discover the use of a virtual abacus, bar chart, or base blocks and more.

did you know?

... there is no state funding for technology in schools, and federal funding this year for BISD technology was \$1200?

... local technology levy dollars fund computer hardware, software and related equipment, as well as the supporting infrastructure, professional development, and staffing costs?

... the current technology levy expires this December?

Retiring Friends and New Faces

Blakely Principal Ric Jones and BHS Associate Principal Dean Fritts are retiring at the end of June. Jones has been with the district for 36 years, Fritts for 26 years. The district wishes these outstanding, longtime administrators the best as they begin their retirement.

Former Ordway teacher and current Assistant Principal at Kingston High School, Reese Ande will be the new principal at Blakely. Former BHS math teacher and coach Jake Haley will rejoin the high school staff as Associate Principal, returning from time as an Associate Principal at Laguna Hills High School in California.



Clockwise from top left: Ric Jones, Dean Fritts, Jake Haley and Reese Ande.

BUILDING OUR SCHOOLS

Saving Taxpayer Dollars

BISD is aggressively pursuing capital project savings for taxpayers through 2009-10 federal stimulus construction programs:

- The School Board took advantage of Build America Bonds in the first bond sales for the Wilkes replacement. The savings for tax payers is estimated to be approximately \$1.9M over the 20-year bond life.
- BISD received notification in mid-June that its application for \$14M in Qualified School Construction Bonds was approved. This could

save taxpayers as much as \$4.9M in debt service over 17 years.

The district also is focused on saving dollars through energy conservation. The first phase of lighting upgrades is complete in selected areas at five schools and the transportation and district offices.

A 50% energy savings is anticipated in these areas with an estimated annual savings of over \$40,000 to the General Fund.

Cuts in School Funding Shift More Responsibility to Local Communities

BUDGET BACKGROUND

Over the past 3 years, Bainbridge Island School District has implemented budget cuts totaling almost 13% of its General Fund budget. Reductions in state funding, increased operational costs, and the elimination of several grants have resulted in a budget gap of \$1 million for the 2010-11 school year. BISD continues its legacy of financial stewardship, even as it addresses this gap. The district has placed the highest priority on protecting educational programs and maintaining class size. However, the cumulative impact of reduced funding has resulted in a second year of “Reduction in Force” (RIF) of staff.

FOUNDATION SUPPORT

Reductions in state allocations have shifted more of the responsibility for school funding to local communities. Thanks to the remarkable efforts of the Bainbridge Schools Foundation and the support of our generous community, the *Keep Island Schools Strong (KISS)* campaign is off to a successful start. By June 15th, 24% of the \$650,000 goal had been raised, allowing the district to reinstate 1.9 FTE staff positions K-12. The KISS campaign continues, and we encourage you to support their efforts.

LOCAL LEVIES

Changes in state law also reflect the trend toward greater reliance on local funding. SHB 2893, passed by the state legislature this spring, raised local levy lids for school operations, which allows districts to consider a supplemental local levy to help replace lost funding. The BISD Board of Directors is currently discussing this legislation, as well as the Technology Levy, which will expire at the end of this year.

The School Board is committed to keeping local school taxes stable. One strategy that would maintain school taxes at their current level and take advantage of the supplemental levy would be to place two measures on the November ballot: a renewal of the Technology Levy at a reduced level coupled with a measure that would pay for staff positions. The Board will continue to weigh these options at its June and July meetings and welcomes community input.



www.bainbridge.wednet.edu
For more district news and information

Stars in Our Schools

Incredible community

and parent volunteers serve our students and share insight and feedback regarding school operations:

- This year, 103 community representatives served on 26 different committees.
- Over 100 community members participated in a Communications Audit in April and a Technology Forum in May.
- Volunteers working in classrooms, providing enrichment activities, fundraising and more, donated 74,670 hours this year!

These “stars” add vibrancy and strength to our students and schools. Thank you volunteers!

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Open and Read About Your Schools

- Technology Engages and Compels Students to Inquire and Learn
- Saving Taxpayer Dollars
- Reductions in State Funding Shift More Responsibility to Local Communities

OpenBook is a publication by the Bainbridge Island School District to connect with and bring timely information to our community.

SPRING 2010



Sakai students use NavOps technology

Technology that engages and compels!

- Saving taxpayer dollars
- Reductions in state funding shift more responsibility to local communities



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Bainbridge Island School District No. 303

Where Our Schools and Our Community Connect