AnthroTech Assessment

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EDET 632 Education Technology

Essential questions

What Attitudes toward the use of technology are present in my educational environment?

How does this environment function as a technology culture?

Objective

Research the use of technology in your educational environment to increase your

understanding of this environment as a technology culture, in practical, legal, and

philosophical terms.

ISTE NETS Standards

This activity reflects the following standards:

> **3. Model Digital-Age Work and Learning**, particularly b, "Collaborate with
> students, peers, parents, and community members using digital tools and
> resources to support student success and innovation."
>
> **5. Engage in Professional Growth and Leadership**, particularly b, "Exhibit
> leadership by demonstrating a vision of technology infusion, participating in
> shared decision making and community building, and developing the leadership
> and technology skills of others."

Assessment Questionnaire:

Understanding Your School's Technology Culture

> The following is a study of Mount Edgecumbe High School (MEHS) and their
> integration of technology into school activities. Questions were answered through
> observations, interviews, and references to the MEHS Educational Technology &
> Telecommunications Service Plan (ET&TSP).

I. Technological Capacity and Capabilities

1. *What kind of technology is available to you?*

> Each room has a smart board, a projector, and a computer for the teacher.
> Laptops and desktops are available for students and teachers to use. iPads are

available for proper occasions. The school has two 3D printers, as well as a laser-induced engraving machine.

2. *What internet capability is available?*

Wireless internet is available to students and staff. Each teachers' computer is connected by a landline, which offers a more reliable internet connection. During the school day, when the internet is being highly utilized, the connection slows down compared to its speed before the start of the school day.

3. *How is computer and internet access provided? Dispersed computers? 1 to 1? Labs? Can students use their own equipment?*

In addition to the computers available in the library for student use, there are several computer labs with PC's as well as a computer classroom with only iMacs. Mobile computer carts are available, as well as one cart of iPads, for teachers to sign out on a class-by-class basis. Some classrooms, including one of the science classrooms, have desktop computers set up around the perimeter of the classroom.

Students involved in ANSEP can sign up for individual desktop computers, which become their personal computers for the year. Many students have laptops and other wireless devices that can be used at appropriate times in the classroom setting, as well as for homework assignments.

Currently, students have to bring their own computers. Mount Edgecumbe is working towards acquiring enough computers to have a 1:1 student to computer ratio, though this may take some time.

4. *What kinds of filters are in place, and how do they restrict what you might want to do?*

Internet use is filtered through GCI in Anchorage. Restrictions are few and far between, which allows teachers and students to use YouTube videos and other online media as tools in the classroom.

5. *If resources like social media are blocked, are there "intranet" options? Are there ways to get special permission to use blocked resources?*

Students are allowed to use many types of social media, but are blocked from going to "undesirable" websites. MEHS staff can add filters as needed by calling the phone company.

In addition to social media, there is an intranet that can be accessed from any computer attached to the school's network. Each teacher and student has their own folder on the Z drive, which they can access by logging into any school computer.

6. *Who has the specialty gear (cameras, scanners, etc.) and can you use it?*

There are two 3D printers on campus, mainly used by the robotics team and engineering classes. Some students can be seen around campus with Canon cameras, taking pictures for the school paper and yearbook. Though these and other devices are used mostly for their previously named departments and activities, teacher can request to use them for specific classes as needed.

7. *What is your best sense of the technology that your students have at home? To what extent can you expect them to have access to technology and internet access outside school to work on school projects?*

As a boarding school, MEHS is lucky enough to have control over students' ability to access technological resources during and after school hours. Currently there are computers in dorm hallways and lobbies for use by any student anytime before lights out (at 10 P.M.). Some computer labs are open for a limited time after school, and the library, which has several computers, is open throughout the school day. Students can also acquire computers through ANSEP.

II. Leadership and Policies
8. *Does your school have a mission statement and an educational technology plan? If so, when were they last updated? Attach them or provide a link to them from your blog.*

MEHS has a very detailed mission statement and technology plan, which were last updated on March 24, 2013. The link to these is on my website, lizschababerle.weebly.com.

9. *Are missions and plans used and generally valued at school? Do you use them?*

Missions and plans are definitely valued at Mount Edgecumbe. Students have to apply to get in, and this year only one in eight applicants made it. That being said, the students are held to a very high standard, which also means the staff are held to an equally high standard. We all strive to make Mount Edgecumbe a safe and welcoming environment for students from all backgrounds.

10. *Do the missions and plans address the issues of digital citizenship, or of developing a balanced view of technology adoption?*

Yes, the school holds students to the ISTE NET Standards of digital citizenship, as stated in #5 of Appendix C (pp. 55, TechPlan2013).

11. *Is technology well-funded at your school? Do you see signs of technology rotation, professional development and on-going maintenance of existing equipment?*

It is very evident that technology has been well-funded for quite some time. This can be deduced by observing the diversity of advanced technology on campus.

The IT department re-builds, updates, and distributes computers as often as once per week. The department receives approximately 5-6 maintenance requests each day, and can usually only fix 3-4 of them in one day. This results in quite the backlog of requests. As a state entity, MEHS is able to save some money by buying surplus computers from the government.

12. *Does your school have Internet use and parent permission policies? When were they last updated? Attach them or provide a link to them from your blog.*

Parent permission policies are somewhat irrelevant because the students don't live with their parents while attending school. Students are required to sign a Technology Use agreement at the beginning of the year.

13. *Has your school adopted or established competencies for students? When were they last updated? Attach them or provide a link to them from your blog.*

      One of many goals in the MEHS ET&TSP is to "incorporate grade level student tech competencies through student scope and sequence" (p. 9). While this goal is still a work in progress, course-by course technology standards are listed on pages 40-48. These standards are impressively organized and are laid out for seemingly every course at MEHS, including Health & Physical Education. Along with these standards, students are required to take two technology credits, Computer 1 & an elective.

14. *Who are the ed tech leaders within your school? Does your school have an ed tech committee? Is it active? What are its responsibilities?*

      The EdTech leaders make up the EdTech committee, which meets twice per month. Its members are the librarian, computer teacher, and IT coordinators. During meetings the EdTech committee discusses the direction of educational technology in the school community, including computer rotation and flow of technology in and between the classrooms.

15. *Who are the student leaders in technology? Are there programs that allow them to use their expertise to help teachers and other students? Are there special programs that allow them to pursue their interests?*

      There are several options for students to pursue technological knowledge. I would have to say the student leaders are the IT interns, who regularly help the coordinators fix and build computers. There are many electives in computer science and engineering, including an Intro to Engineering class and a CAD class. The school is constantly changing the "computer" classes to prepare students for new and different careers in technology, including a class on gaming software development.

16. *Are community members involved in regards to using technology in your school?*

      At MEHS, the community the students are exposed to is mostly limited to the students and staff at the high school. Technology is highly integrated into community life, including announcements sent out daily via e-mail and a

number of resources on the school website. Students' guardians are able to view their grades and attendance records online. Guardians can also view videos, photos, and other updates on the school website.

17. *If something breaks, who fixes it? How do you contact them? Are corrective and on-going maintenance well supported?*

For any immediate needs, such as technical difficulties in the middle of a school-wide presentation, the IT office is called. If either of the coordinators are there, the problem will be fixed in as little as 5 minutes. For general inquiries, the IT department has an e-mail, which gets backlogged fairly quickly since they usually get about twice as many tech requests as time will allow them to fix. Technological maintenance is always in high demand. In spite of everything, the department always has the right tools for the job.