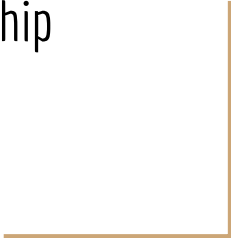




School Visit Funding & Technology

Spring 2017, Internship



Profile & Contact Information

Contact Information

Name: [REDACTED]

Phone: [REDACTED]

Address: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

Accompanied By: [REDACTED]

School Profile

Number of Students: Approximately 500

Grade Levels: 5th and 6th

Type of School: Suburban Public

Number of Teachers: unknown

Population: 10% Special Education (special unit), 10% Gifted (special unit), 80% Regular Education

Why did you choose this school?

I selected this school because I plan to move back to the [REDACTED] area within the next few years. [REDACTED] is a district that I am familiar with and would love to serve in the future. [REDACTED] is a well-funded public school in a suburban setting with approximately [REDACTED] residents with a median household income above the state average ([REDACTED] annually). Although [REDACTED] is relatively well-funded, there have been some budget cuts in recent years. [REDACTED] has a [REDACTED] permanent levy up for vote on May [REDACTED]

My [REDACTED] used to work in this district. Before being an educator myself, I always thought that teachers complained too much. I was excited to get an insider's view of the school district and to see for myself how things really occur.

What were your expectations?

My expectations were that [REDACTED] would have followed the research that my internship team and I have read. The research supports a slow roll-out of 1:1 technology with professional development occurring before the technology is introduced to the students for full-time use.

With the relatively affluent population of [REDACTED], and [REDACTED] in particular, I had expected they would have provided each student a Mac (iPad or MacBook). My [REDACTED] used to work in this district, and at the time, she had a district-provided MacBook.

What happened?

In talking to the [REDACTED] about the 1:1 technology in this district, she explained that the district is part of a technology leasing program (she couldn't remember the name of the program at the time of the interview). This leasing program allowed the district to return used iPads to get Chromebooks for every student in the Middle School grades (5th, 6th) at a lower price than buying the Chromebooks or other hardware outright.

The district already had the funding to start the program. They are placing a [REDACTED] levy for a vote on May [REDACTED] in order to fully-fund and continue the program indefinitely.

The district did not follow the research, and actually, ended up using the same model that our internship district [REDACTED] has proposed pending levy funding passing.

[REDACTED] purchased Chromebooks (same as [REDACTED] plan), did not conduct an introductory year of professional development (same as [REDACTED] plan) and started the program in the middle school grades first (same as [REDACTED] plan).

What did you learn?

I learned that whatever the district says, goes.

When I shared my hesitations about this plan with the Principal in [REDACTED], to my surprise, she talked enthusiastically about how well the plan has gone so far!

She shared that:

- All teachers have to become Google Classroom Certified within one year (this takes multiple days)
- All teachers have to, at minimum, set up a Google Classroom
- Exceptionalities teachers have enjoyed the technology the most (they have said that it makes differentiation easier)
- Teachers have been learning and discovering new ways to include technology on their own
- Older teachers have embraced the technology without issue

How does this school compare with your school in regards to addressing the challenge?

I am working with [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] to address a significant challenge in the [REDACTED]. In [REDACTED], they are planning to implement 1:1 technology in the middle school level and high school levels after getting the funding through a levy on May [REDACTED]. In order to get the program started, the levy must pass.

To my surprise, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] are following similar plans to implement the program. This is [REDACTED] first year with 1:1 technology.

What research supports the proposed solutions being implemented at the school you visited?

None have been verified at this time.

How will you use this experience to deepen your understanding of the challenges facing your school?

As a school leader, I will call upon the knowledge, experience and honest feedback from other school leaders to inform my decisions from someone who has gone through similar challenges. Whether this is in the form of formal mentorship, professional network or cold-calling, I will seek to listen to others in my field in order to use their experience as a learning experience for myself. As much as I am personally into research and empiricism, sometimes, dealing with humans is a whole different field, and sometimes...I should let the humans speak for themselves. Not every setting can be lab-perfect and replicable, which is why experience and discussion hold their own merit.