Briarmeadow Charter School
IB Information and Communication (ICT) Policy

Philosophy

As pointed out in the IB PYP curriculum framework, **Information and Communications Technology** (ICT) is '*best considered as a tool for learning, albeit with its own set of skills, as opposed to an additional subject area*.'

At Briarmeadow Charter School, the students' ICT learning experiences are contextually bound to the units they are studying in other parts of the curriculum, and especially the program of inquiry.

ICT provides opportunities for the transformation of teaching and learning and enables students to investigate, create, communicate, collaborate, organize and be responsible for their own learning and actions. The PYP at Briarmeadow allows students to make connections, reach a deeper understanding and grow into digital, world citizens.

Leadership and Management

All teachers are responsible for using ICT to its best effect throughout the curriculum. ICT skills are not taught in isolation but in structured, purposeful, inquiry-based learning engagements. Specific engagements and responsibilities will be discussed during IB collaborative planning meetings.
● Weekly PLC grade level meeting held each Thursday
● Early dismissal staff development on Wednesday afternoons
The staffing budget at Briarmeadow provides one full-time ICT specialist. The ICT Specialist manages the overall program, but it should be recognized that the responsibility for learning about ICT is shared among all stakeholders.

Curriculum

ICT is one of the connecting components of the curriculum. As students engage in ICT across themes and subject areas, they develop a deep understanding of its relevance and applications in their everyday lives.
● all students will benefit from ICT opportunities with an authentic fit in the curriculum
● there will be regularly scheduled ICT lessons to explicitly teach the skills needed to use resources effectively and to help students better direct their own learning.
● through careful planning, teachers will ensure the natural connection between the curriculum and the digital age by integrating ICT into units of inquiry.

Learning and Teaching

Classroom teacher and technology facilitator work as full partners in the planning, learning, and assessment process. Classroom teachers actively assist other team members with the use of technology.
Teachers identified as tech-innovators will learn and use new technology and applications first and share their expertise with other grade level and Briarmeadow staff members.

Assessment

ICT skills covered in each unit of inquiry will be recorded in the planner as well as the details of the learning engagements, resources used, and assessments.

By the end of second grade students should have acquired the following skills to investigate, create, communicate, organize and be responsible for their own learning and actions:

- startup and shutdown the computer
- use sign in options, like typing in their name and password (kidpix, google drive)
- play games that require problem solving and memory skills
- make cards, letters, and invitations using creativity software (kidpix)
- use the print function
- exit a program
- make an illustrated story using a word processor or creativity program (kid pix, ipad apps)
- save a document
- explore and research using as an online encyclopedia (world book kids online)
- use the internet to look up a science term or historical figure (google drive)
- play a game that requires solving math or logic puzzles
- take photographs, create a folder, and save them (ipad, google drive)
- illustrate homework with pictures and photographs (google drive)
- respond to the question,"What are some Internet Safety Rules?"

By the end of fifth grade students should have acquired the following additional skills to use tools and resources to reinforce and promote learning and evaluate digital content:

- practice correct typing using keyboarding software (typing web)
- use pull down menus to customize word processing documents
- use the internet to research and write a report
- use presentation software to illustrate a project (google drive, prezi, glogster)
- use an ipad to film and edit short videos (imovie)
- upload projects to a cloud based server (google drive, edmodo)
- submit homework and assignments online (google drive, edmodo, glogster)
- respond to the question, "How can technology help you in everyday life?"
- cite sources
- evaluate validity of internet resources

Professional Development

Teachers interest in, and development of , ICT should be maintained through regular and on-going professional development.
- ICT specialist will conduct periodic staff development opportunities based on need and the advancement of technology
- ICT specialist and teachers will work together to ensure the continuity and progression of skills
- ICT specialist will research and inform staff of technology professional development offered outside of school

Extended Opportunities for Learning

Online resources will be made available to students for use outside of school:

- Google Drive
- World Book Encyclopedia
- iStation
- Accelerated Reader
- Tumblebooks Online Library
- Brainpop and Brainpop Jr.
- Think Through Math
- Learning.com
- Education City

Resources

Briarmeadow has three wired computer labs equipped with 24 desktop stations. Each classroom in the building has internet connectivity via a wired and/or wireless connection, provided and maintained by the school district. Each classroom has between 4-6 student desktop computers as well as a common set of AV equipment including an LCD projector,laptop, document camera, and some are equipped with interactive whiteboards. Mobile devices are available for student inquiry and are scheduled through the ICT specialist. The district's technology department provides support when needed for higher level technology maintenance; daily issues are handled by the campus ICT specialist. ICT budget resources will be budgeted annually to meet the needs of teachers and students. A three-year projected budget will be developed for the upkeep and replacement of technology, and the purchase of additional technology resources. Briarmeadow is a certified Google campus with accounts for every staff member and student which include:

- Unlimited online storage
- Documents
- Presentations
- Spreadsheets
- Forms
- Drawings
- Video Editing
- Email
- Chat
- Social Media

A three year projected budget plan will be developed to include to upkeep/replacement of technology, and the purchase of additional an innovative technology resources.

Impact on Student Outcomes

- increased achievement
- engagement
- increased efficiency in the classroom