

Meduxnekeag Consolidated School

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Meduxnekeag Consolidated School received 30 laptops through district to help support our initiative to determine if 1:1 technology for grade 8 students across all content areas would support engagement levels and readiness for high school. Prior to receiving the laptops, MCS laid a strong foundation to ensure students were effectively prepared to properly use technology. MCS laid a technology framework, including a code of conduct, which was co-created with grade 8 teachers, district liaisons, PSSC and administration.

Laptops were placed in a cart and were available for grade 8 teachers to sign-out on a needed basis. MCS also purchased an additional 30 laptops to supplement this initiative. In addition to the district and school purchased laptops, MCS supplemented this initiative by opening BYOD and partnered with Woodstock First Nation, who purchased laptops for all grade 8 First Nations students who attend MCS. Teachers reported easy access to technology as asset for their classrooms.

Prior to the start of the initiative, students were surveyed to gauge their ability to produce work using technology, and their satisfaction with products produced. Based on data collected in September, students felt they were averagely prepared to produce work using technology and had a mixed sense of satisfaction on products produced using technology. When polled again in April, students demonstrated the same feeling of preparedness for using technology and satisfaction with products produced. However, data showed that students polled in April had a larger repertoire of technology-based applications which they felt comfortable using, such as Outlook, Forms, Excel, Power Point, One Drive, Minecraft Education, Prodigy, Flip Grid, and Blooket.

Teachers surveyed in April answered that students are more comfortable using technology in the classroom than they were at the beginning of the 2022-2023 school year. Teachers feel the work produced by students in April supersedes the work produced in September. Teachers identified that they are finding it easier to differentiate student learning, students are learning valuable research skills and that students are more motivated to produce quality pieces, when they are given access to technology. Teachers find work easier to grade and that students are taking their work more seriously. Some areas of concern were also identified, such as some students who are accessing games during instructional time, however, teachers identified Lanschool, an application which allows teachers to view student's screens, has helped to alleviate some of this problem.

In conclusion, Meduxnekeag Consolidated School feels that the access to technology have given our students a greater understanding of technology-based applications, which are essential in high school and teachers feel that the use of technology is helping to increase student engagement levels.