Shared Vision Paper

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Vision Statement

Our vision at Harmony-Leland Elementary School is to exemplify a community that embraces a culture of change and collaboration where all students perform on or above grade level. We strive to develop a team that focuses on and understands the importance of student-centered learning. It is our goal to increase academic skills with special emphasis on English Language Arts and Mathematics and to also promote the increase of parent engagement in school activities. With this vision, we can build a school of academic achievers that will possess the skills of leaders and become great contributors to their community.

Rationale

Through communication with our school administrators, observation of the school and acknowledging our school vision, the future plan for our school is to implement more use of digital tools like Microsoft Office 365 as a form of integrating technology to support student learning. There are three main ideal goals for our vision. They are as follow: to provide additional support for staff members so that they are confident in using tools such as Microsoft Office 365, increase student collaboration and engagement with these tools, and encourage teacher and parent utilization to help support student learning. Our team is all about collaborating and learning new strategies and tools to use so that we can effectively meet the needs of all students. Research shows that students are more likely to retain knowledge gained through project-based learning more than they would through traditional textbook-centered learning. What makes project-based learning so phenomenal is that it's filled with engaged learning and it inspires students to gain a deeper understanding of the subjects being taught in class. It also aides

students' development in confidence and self-direction as they maneuver through team-based

and independent work. (Edutopia, 2008)

Reflecting on the essential conditions that we learned about in the previous module, there

are a few that align with supporting our SIP plan and vision. These conditions include student-

centered learning, personnel, and ongoing professional learning. We are a school that works

diligently on making sure that our students' needs are put first. In order to keep our children

actively involved and driven, we try to make their learning experiences as authentic and

engaging as possible. There are many opportunities for professional learning and development

being that we meet at least once a week and individual coaching is also available if needed.

These opportunities are extremely beneficial because they enable educators to enhance a greater

impact on student learning through shared knowledge and resources. When it comes to skilled

personnel, we have educators such as our STEM teacher, media specialist, instructional coach,

EIP coach, and Tech/Writing coach who are all very knowledgeable about digital resources and

filled with many creative ideas to integrate technology into the classroom. Focusing on the

implementation of these essential conditions will help the shared vision for technology

integration become reality. We will use the available staff support to help educate and guide

other staff members, parents, and students so that we are all on one accord with reaching our

school's goal of implementing digital tools to support student learning.

Diversity Considerations

Studies show that Microsoft has been successful with making learning more accessible.

Research on learning tools and their effectiveness is steadily building student academic

achievement. In 2017, there was a study showing that students who used learning tools achieved

higher rates of growth in reading comprehension opposed to other students who did not (Gonzalez, 2018). The awesome part about learning tools is that it enables low SES learners to be more engaged in school activities and projects. "A number of studies have found that students demonstrate stronger engagement, self-efficacy, attitudes toward school, and skill development when they are engaged in content creation projects" (Zielezinski, Goldman, & Darling-Hammond, 2014). Being a Title I school where there is a great amount of low SES students, we are striving to implement more technology in hopes of advancing our students to the digital world. It is our intention to gain enough equipment to become a 1:1 device school so that we can enhance the status of equitable access for all students. In the meantime, we are implementing the BYOD policy until we reach that desired goal.

Another beneficial tool to use in the classroom is OneNote. Students can create their own writing pieces using Microsoft Word or OneNote. They can use a feature called Read Aloud to hear what they wrote. After the text is submitted in OneNote, students can use the Immersive Reader as a form of support. According to a study in 2017, many students who used this feature develop greater improvements in their writing. Students showed more motivation to revise and edit their writing due to their ability to hear their writing read aloud. (Gonzalez, 2018)

Presentation Translator is an Office add-in for PowerPoint that allows presenters to show live, translated subtitles. As the presenter speaks, the add-in displays subtitles directly on to the PowerPoint presentation in up to 60 supported text languages. Features include Live subtitling, and customized speech recognition. This would be an awesome tool to use for ESOL students. It is a great learning tool that would display differentiation in the classroom and something that would promote collaboration and engagement. This tool is also good for supporting conferences or meeting with others who speak different languages.

Gender equity is a hot topic, especially when it comes to our young girls. Many girls and women continue to face the challenges of technology gap. This gap prevents them from using and creating digital tools at the same level as boys and men. Unfortunately, due to the lack of equal access to technology and the internet, girls and women are unable to participate in digital societies and the global community. Holding girls back in the digital world affects their lives more than people would think. If girls fail to be included in creating digital tools and solutions, these things will be created for them which means that they will most likely be unable to reflect their wants and rights in the future. (Plan International, 2019) One way we can help promote gender equity is by having someone like our STEM teacher, who is a woman, speak to our young girls about technology and its value to our society. Giving inspiring speeches and holding after school events could really boost students' confidence and motivate girls to dream big instead of feeling overshadowed by digital inequity.

In 2017, Microsoft was used to collect data and analytics to drive improvement for Fresno Unified School District. This school district was the fourth largest district in California and aided approximately 75,000 students with a majority residing in low income households. About 22 percent of the students were English learners. Fresno Unified School District's used a Personalized Learning Initiative to improve their students' scores on ELA assessments and accelerated social and emotional learning. The students from this district are now 25% more likely to meet or exceed math and language arts standards (Neufeld, 2017). With learning this information and considering our goal of improving ELA and math skills, it seems to be beneficial to use Microsoft tools as a strategy for building student learning.

Stakeholder Roles

Developing a strong vision can assist stakeholders in our school to reach a clear understanding of what our goals are and how we can measure progression. In order to achieve our school vision, we have identified specific examples of how to advance technology integration. One example is to provide training nights for parents to learn how to access Office 365. Taking into consideration of busy work schedules, most parents are more likely to attend meetings that are later in the evening. We would like to provide handouts as resources for parents to use during and after the meetings so that they have a guide to refer to. Another example is to hold skype sessions where the presenter can take over the user's screen when additional support is needed. There will be several of visual aids and step-by-step directions to make the experience smooth and to manage time effectively. Finally, we thought that it would be neat to have webinars and interactive modules for stakeholders to work on. If we want to be successful with incorporating our vision it is imperative that we keep everyone engaged and on the same page. "One of the most important responsibilities of any leader is establishing a vision and inviting others to share in its development" (Farmer & Gabriel, 2009).

Many teachers are beginning to use tools such as Microsoft Forms for pedagogically substantive ways to improve student outcomes. Some ideas of ways that we could use this tool to support our vision of collaboration where all students perform on or above grade level are: assigning formative assessments, differentiating instruction, peer collaboration (students creating their own Forms in groups), and using this tool to increase student engagement (Microsoft Education Team, 2018). "Teachers can also use Microsoft Forms for professional learning and to increase their efficiency with administrative and routine teaching tasks such as communicating with parents and professional development through reflective practice." Research shows that

professional development of staff, new instructional skills, and teacher beliefs about instruction has a huge impact on the integration of technology. Exploring teachers' approach and attitudes towards teaching enables them to become better student-centered learners which in return encourages educators to be more intentional facilitators of technology (Sutton, 2015). So by providing extra support through professional development, we can empower our teachers, they can connect with parents, and then altogether we can work as a team to execute our vision of having all students perform on or above grade level with the support of integrating technology.

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Appendix

Possible Future Interview Questions

1. How can technology standards be used to align with the school's vision and mission?

2. What can be done to increase technology equity for students including those with disabilities?

3. Do you have any suggestions on how we can increase the partnerships and collaboration within our community to support and fund the use of ICT and digital learning resources?

4. Do you feel that the educators in this school have a true understanding of how valuable technology integration is?

5. How can we effectively promote professional development to support the implementation and use of technology?

6. How often are digital tools used for activities to develop higher-order thinking skills in the classroom?

7. What digital tools can be used to support student-centered learning?

8. Would you say that there's a need for more digital age professionals who can help create a technology-rich cultured school?

9. What steps would need to be made in order to have technology standards apart of the SIP?

10. Will the administrators and leadership team be intentional with supporting teachers and students once the technology standards are implemented into the SIP?