How does EAMS support 21st Century learning?

At EAMS, we understand how complex life can be for our early adolescents. We understand that our student's reality is a blend of rapidly changing environments, interlaced with age old issues of growing up. We work deliberately with our students to assure that they are well-grounded citizens of any century; students who recognize and access their essential empathic core which connects them to other humans in their ever-expanding universes, virtual or tangible; students who have a solid ethical compass to guide them through the dynamic and profound relationships they will develop.

We know that our adolescents thrive in an environment that is supported by creativity and inquiry. Our AISI projects have helped us to enhance student engagement through providing multiple paths to learning. Technology certainly assists us in this area.

There is, however, no magical techno-bobble that can be plugged in that will address the myriad of academic, social and emotional frontiers that our students face. That being said, we know we have important work to do to help prepare students for their future in an increasingly technological world.

We have designated significant human resources, professional development, and learning time to advance our staff and student's technological competencies. Guiding our work is a team of teachers who form the Technology Team. This team, together with our computer technician and administration, develop and implement the school's technology plan. This work has been greatly supported by the commitment of RVS to provide laptops, projectors and smart boards.

At EAMS, our most junior students (Grades 5 and 6) have embedded technology coaching. This occurs when 2 teachers are joined to the class to instruct the students on safe and efficient use of the internet.

Grades 7 and 8 students are offered a variety of basic and advanced courses based on technology including Mac Attack and Moodle based courses. Digital photography and yearbook courses are also computer-based. These courses also have a mandatory internet safety component through the program "Passport to the Internet".

Throughout the students' day, technology plays an important role. With the help of our full time computer technologist and our half time library technologist, students are able to explore and advance their knowledge on a broad range of topics. With the use of tools such as Google Docs, students are able to create, collaborate, and critique their work and that of their peers.

Staff use technology in a variety of ways to enhance communications. Teachers have used on-line reporting systems for eight years to communicate to parents the details of academic progress. Assignments, homework and tests are routinely posted on our school's 'plone' site where parents may subscribe to an RSS feed.

In the future, EAMS will be directing our energies toward revamping our Library into a dynamic Learning Commons, and toward incorporating student private technologies into the learning environment.