

Vision/Rational (External Scan) Paper

KSU/ ITEC 7410 Section 2/ Williams

Adam Meador

**Vision**

The primary mission of Buford Elementary School is to, “ensure that each child gains the knowledge, values, and skills necessary to become productive, life-long learners” (BES School Profile, 2014 p.3). At Buford Elementary, technology and vision are an integral part of accomplishing this mission. The vision of Buford Elementary is to operate at a high technology performance level by continually providing all students with diverse and interoperable technologies and digital resources, challenging and engaging learning environments, and rich opportunities to demonstrate and develop the digital skills necessary to be successful 21<sup>st</sup> Century learners (Jones, 1995). It is the shared responsibility and duty of all stakeholders to provide ongoing governance, funding and support in the areas of infrastructure, training, innovative use, equitable access, and embedded technology in all areas of curriculum (ISTE, 2015). With a student-centered focus on all areas of technology, Buford Elementary strives to ensure that all students gain the digital skills necessary to thrive in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, “improve learning outcomes and help students develop the skills for college and career readiness” (ISTE, 2015, Student-centered learning section, para. 5).

**Stakeholders****The Administration and Technology Leaders’ Role:**

Successful *e-leadership* requires that administrators identify the experts of new technologies within a school (Avolio, 2000; Moss Kanter, 2001; Quinn-Mills, 2001). In keeping with the ideals of *e-leadership* in June of 2014, the administration of Buford City Schools established a Digital Leadership Academy, or DLA, with the primary vision of “creating a viable network of proficient digital leaders in every school committed to

transforming instruction and learning through the use of technology” (BCSS DLA Draft, 2014). One stated goal of the BCS Digital Learning Academy is to “create a visionary technology plan for Buford City Schools” (BCSS DLA Draft, 2014). Technology leaders within Buford Elementary will be continually identified, supported, and tasked with maintaining and growing the technology learning network and being the stewards of *e-leadership* within the school.

**The Teachers’ Role:**

It is the duty and responsibility of teachers to use the diverse hardware and software applications within their classrooms to “craft instruction and apply technology in a way that best serves each student’s learning journey” (ISTE, 2015, Student-centered learning section, para. 2). Teachers will infuse technologies such as mobile devices, Web 2.0 resources, interactive whiteboards, and classroom computers into their daily lessons to more effectively deliver content standards and curriculum in a student-centered learning approach that focuses on the learner and higher order thinking. In addition, teachers are responsible for actively engaging in and participating in any and all technology focused professional development opportunities. It is also the shared responsibility of teachers to seek out new technology solutions and innovations for their classrooms and redeliver both informally and formally to colleagues and peers within the school to further strengthen the technology learning network of Buford Elementary and Buford City Schools.

**The Students’ Role:**

Students of Buford Elementary will continuously be held to high expectations of character. This includes being exemplary digital citizens and using the technology

resources provided in safe, ethical, responsible, and positively collaborative ways. It is the responsibility of students to create a student culture devoid of cyber-bullying or social media misuse. In addition, students will be continuously challenged to raise their technology and digital literacy to new levels.

**The Parents' Role:**

Parents are encouraged to participate in the technology focused parent workshops provided by Buford Elementary on PTO event nights and curriculum nights.

Additionally, parents are expected to continually monitor their child's growth and achievement through the various digital resources available to parents including: classroom blogs, Renaissance Home Connect, PowerSchool, school message broadcast emails and texts, Twitter, and the school website. Finally, it is the responsibility of parents to ensure that all fundraising funds earmarked for technology by PTO are distributed in equitable and responsible ways to better ensure consistent access to innovative classroom technologies.

**Conclusion**

The vision and goal for Buford Elementary is to promote an ongoing dialogue with all stakeholders including administration, teachers, support staff, parents, students, business leaders, and community members about technology. In regards to this dialogue, Creighton (2003) states that, "We must, as leaders, be committed to regularly monitoring and assessing technology use in the same ways we monitor and assess other aspects of the curriculum" (p. 84). It is the charge of Buford Elementary to continually evaluate, reevaluate, and reinvent both the physical technology infrastructure and also the thinking

behind how technology and its innovative use can drive change and the curriculum to new and higher levels of student engagement and achievement.

### References

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<b>successfully use the technology within the school?</b>
students with disabilities, English language learners, economically disadvantaged students, Hispanic students
All students have the necessary skills to use the technology within the school
all could have the skills if they are taught
students with disabilities
economically disadvantaged students
All students have the necessary skills to use the technology within the school
All students have the necessary skills to use the technology within the school
students with disabilities, English language learners, economically disadvantaged students, EIP students
English language learners, economically disadvantaged students, EIP students
All students have the necessary skills to use the technology within the school
students with disabilities
economically disadvantaged students
All students have the necessary skills to use the technology within the school
<b>Which areas should the school be addressing more in regards to technology in the schools?</b>
I think in our k-1, an excellent job is done with regards to technology. I think stronger, long-term emphasis on basic keyboarding skills should begin by 2nd grade.
Families of ELL and low income families
Keyboarding skills, individualized phonics programs
I cannot think of an area per say. I think we do a lot to teach our students through the computer labs and through iPads/Mimeos in the classrooms.
I would like to have access to a wider variety of Ebooks. It would also be nice to have more iPads in the classroom with headsets. A document camera would be beneficial as well. Some teachers could benefit from more professional learning to help them feel more comfortable with technology.
I think that schools place too much emphasis on one-to-one initiatives and instruction. I think educators should receive more professional development on collaborative learning with the devices they have.
More in-depth and follow-up training for teachers when new programs are added. We do a great job of having a basic introduction to programs but I would love to have more advanced classes after we've had a chance to explore and try out these programs in our classroom.
Writing proficiency -
Basic use of technology for the kids and also providing more learning opportunities for the teachers and sample lessons with the use of technology.
Basic research sites and how to use them
Economically disadvantaged students
Keyboarding and basic PC skills.
I think we do a great job integrating technology into the classroom, but if I had to pick one area, I

would pick:
Typing skills/appropriate hand formation on the keyboard
<b>Is there an academic content area that could benefit even more from additional technology?</b>
All
ELA, Math, Reading, Science, Social Studies
phonics
ELA, Math, Reading, Science, Social Studies
ELA, Math, Reading, Science, Social Studies
ELA, Math, Reading, Science, Social Studies
Math, Science
ELA
ELA
Science, Social Studies
ELA, Math, Science
ELA
ELA
<b>Which areas should the school be addressing less in regards to technology in the schools?</b>
not sure
None
Accelerated Reader goals
I know that more iPads are being bought for classrooms. I feel that most of the time, these should be used in small group instruction. Whole class instruction is important too with iPads, but I think to get the most out of them for our K/1 students we need to use them in small groups. I think they need to use a variety of technology, which includes the desktops in the classrooms.
Desktop computers. I prefer to use iPads with the students and they are more engaged when using iPads.
Focusing on one type of device or platform. Students should be exposed to a multitude of technologies, applications, and implementations.
Assessment - I think we overuse technology in this area (AR/ELT).
There is no area that should be addressed less. With common core standards, all areas should incorporate technology.
I think less carts to check out and more technology per classroom is more beneficial.
none
Renaissance Learning
Less time playing games on the ipads.



I do not think there is an area to be focusing on less.
<b>Are there any groups of students that you feel do not have adequate access to technology within our school?</b>
economically disadvantaged students
All students have adequate access to technology within our school
All students have adequate access to technology within our school
All students have adequate access to technology within our school
All students have adequate access to technology within our school
All students have adequate access to technology within our school
All students have adequate access to technology within our school
English language learners, EIP students
All students have adequate access to technology within our school
All students have adequate access to technology within our school
students with disabilities, English language learners, EIP students, Regular classroom students
All students have adequate access to technology within our school
All students have adequate access to technology within our school
<b>How can our school better compete with more technologically focused systems?</b>
Have system for students to rent or "check out" laptops for completing assignments; have lab access after school or on weekends.
We continue to improve each year by adding more technology. I would love for each student to have his /her own ipad.
A computer for every child with individually paced learning like what K12 has for its cyber schools.
Visit them and ask questions about how they do things. We can learn from them, but also see what we are doing better than they are.
I think we are on par with or above other school systems in the area.
I think the answer lies in professional development. If teachers understand how technology makes their job more productive, they will use it with greater frequency. I don't think we need to worry about what we don't have or what we want until we are maximizing what we have.
I feel like we have a lot of technology (and use it well) compared to most school systems but maybe having a device for every child?
Provide portable devices for each child to take to and from school. Have a more updated system that can equip teachers with necessary wifi capabilities
We need to be in the other schools seeing how they are implementing new technology. I think this means not just sending technology people but classroom teachers so they can talk with the technology people and let them know yes we can do that or no we will need a lot of support. Teachers need to have some incentive to start using more technology in the classroom.
I believe other systems have a "plan" to address current needs and upcoming needs. I do not feel we have a plan.
It would be nice if we had one to one technology/iPads
We eventually need to have a device for every child. This doe not have to be a tablet at every

grade level. There are many different ways to use technology other than apps on tablets. Our students should be able to use all types of technology.
Students bringing their own devices to school
<b>Do you feel you possess the technological skills necessary to create a learning environment necessary to engage a 21st Century learner?</b>
No
No
Yes
Yes
Yes
Yes
No
No but could if had more training
Yes
Yes
Average
Yes
No
<b>Do you feel you have adequate technology in your classroom to sustain a learning environment necessary for engaging 21st Century learners?</b>
No
No
No
Yes
Yes
Yes
Yes
No
for first grade
Yes
Average
No
would love an "Elmo"
<b>How do initiatives like a device for every student or students bringing devices from home affect our school?</b>

It would even the field for students from low-income families.
A device for every student would allow whole group lessons where every student interacts at one time instead of waiting for his or her turn to "touch" the device. Students gain much more from doing than watching.
It would open the door to the possibility of adopting different kinds of curriculum that allow students to learn at their own pace while teachers act as facilitators instead of fountains of information
I think there is an advantage, but with our age level I'm not sure how that would work.
To my knowledge, our school is not involved in any such initiative. Our students are a bit young to handle the responsibility of safely transporting a device from home.
I think there is too much emphasis placed on BYOD and one-to-one. More doesn't necessarily equal better. I think students working together in pairs and small groups with a single device are both more productive and a better use of the technology.
We would have the ability to incorporate technology into our lessons more often. It would also increase student engagement and allow for more differentiated instruction.
It would make a large impact on our Title One kids. These kids and families need access to technology.
Bringing a device from home in a K-1 setting scares me. It puts a lot of responsibility on the teachers to look out for the devices. If every student was provided a device and it stayed at school it would be helpful in planning lessons.
I believe in having a device for every student is beneficial. I do not necessarily believe that bringing a device from home would benefit our students. Once again, there is not plan of how to make this work.
A device for every student would allow for a positive learning environment, save time and create equality. When every student does not have a device, we have to share, borrow from others, etc....
I think this is a great initiative. I think there needs to be a balance in funding for these devices and available funds to keep the teachers technology up to date at the same time. I feel that the technology I use for presentations and whole group teaching is being left behind due to funding for individual devices. Both are important.
I love this idea, but do worry about the self-esteem of those who do not have a device from home to bring to school.
<b>Does technology make you more effective at teaching content standards?</b>
Yes
Yes
Yes
Yes
Yes
Yes
Yes
Yes
Yes
No
Yes

Yes
Yes
Yes
<b>What are the immediate technological needs of our school?</b>
Updated software and computers, etc. to support the "latest and greatest". Time and support for Staff development - not just to show the technology but to check in w individuals and teams while they're using it in classrooms as well as to suggest ways to incorporate it in plans.
Document cameras, headphones, more devices like iPads,etc.
The latest and greatest iPad for every student plus docking stations w/keyboards
I think document cameras would be very beneficial.
In my opinion, we immediately need headphones for all existing iPads.
I would say that we still need to focus on infrastructure before anything else.
- Separate Raz kids accounts for every teacher - Headphones for iPad minis - Document cameras
More iPads, other techno teaching tools that will make us more proficient with teaching.
We need more in the classroom. With 21 students and doing small groups, one group always has 6 and there are not enough desktops. We can put that students on the ipad mini but it does not always have the same stuff that is on the desktop. It goes the same way with 5 ipads. One student gets left out or we have to borrow from another teacher and chances are they are doing the same lesson at the same time.
Of course, we could always use more ipads.
One to one
Updated lap tops or desktop PCs.
"Elmo" document cameras for all classrooms.
<b>Do you feel like your opinion matters when it comes to decisions made about the direction of technology within the school?</b>
No
Depends, the lower grades most times are considered last when we should be first to give them the earliest exposure.
No
Yes
Yes
Yes
Yes
I would like to think so
sometimes

sometimes
Yes
No
Yes
<b>What are the long-term technological needs of our school?</b>
Same as above
devices for each child
A device for every child, better Wi-Fi
Anything that will keep us up to par with the other systems.
More student iPads, document cameras, iPads for each teacher, and/or updated laptops for teachers. More reliable classroom printers would be nice.
Upgrading teacher and student devices. Providing all teachers with tablets. Providing all classrooms (including resource teachers) with handheld devices and headsets.
- More iPad minis - New laptops for teachers (Macs?) - More professional learning
Consistent upkeep and updated systems.
We need to stay up with the times and the teachers need to be in the loop on new technology.
We need to stay focused on the goals of how we want to use the technology to educate the students. There really needs to be a better plan for this that is long term.
Not sure because technology is always changing from day to day and it changes rapidly. It's hard to gage what we will need in the future.
A device for every child and updated tap tops and PCs for the classroom.
more I pads for each classroom
<b>What areas can be strengthened in regards to technology-related professional learning?</b>
How to plan and incorporate in classrooms with the current technology More staff development
We often reteach how to use programs/technology instead of inducing new things.
Exposing new teachers to all the curriculum available online, like the math texts and how to find AR reports. New teachers are left to stumble across those on their own.
Just more training as new things come along.
I think some teachers would benefit from in-classroom tutorials.
Training on what we have and how we can use it more effectively and not training for devices and software not in place or that won't be available for months after the training.
Like I said above, we need follow-up training after we've been introduced to a new program. Also, I would love to have more ideas/ways to integrate technology into our lessons - not just the basics on how to use a program but specific ideas about using technology to meet standards.
More hands on training
I think not only teaching the teachers about the technology but plan sample lessons that can be actually seen in action.

It is great to learn of a new app - etc. . . but we need to have more time to learn about the different apps and programs so when it comes time to use it in the classroom - we are extremely familiar with it.
Allowing all to attend when there is professional learning. Often times EL teachers miss out on the learning because we are also redelivering at the same time.
We have great staff development, but need more time to practice using these skills. Sometimes we get too many new skills or operating systems thrown at us at one time and teachers get overwhelmed so they don't use any f it.
Anything that has to do with all the new social media (this is huge a weakness for me).
<b>How can our school better prepare students for the 21st century?</b>
Continually increase focus on developing life long learners who are challenged and stimulated to make themselves and their world a better place .
We are making gains to better prepare them but are slow to take the big steps.
Teach keyboarding/typing skills that will also reinforce spelling skills
???
I think our school is doing a great job of preparing students for the 21st century in an age-appropriate manner.
We need to develop a set of standards for what children should be doing with and learning about technology. The standards should be amended as technology changes.
Stay up-to-date with current technology and give students opportunities to use technology often and across the curriculum.
By preparing the teachers
Stay on top of the newest technology and train teachers to use it with their students.
The most important thing to me is to teach them to be independent learners and thinkers.
Continue to take on new things that are out there and have people in the building that are up to date on new technology to share with others.
Our students need to be able to use a keyboard and put together presentations, papers, and so forth to be successful in higher level learning environments. Too much time on tablets seem to hinder these skills.
Look at what other leading schools are doing and see the data to see if it supports what they are doing.
<b>If needed, how do we change our school to better meet the technology needs of all students?</b>
not totally sure-
We are making the necessary changes...slowly.
Update all ipads
Just keep the communication open.
We are on the right track.
We should not over rely on the Technology Teacher to handle all aspects of technology instruction. Learning with technology should occur whenever and wherever it is the best tool to increase student learning. If we want students to be effective with technology, they have to use it daily in meaningful, challenging ways.

I think we do a great job of meeting the technology needs of all students.
Provide more training for better use of technology provided and keep technology updated.
More devices in each child's hands.
I really don't think our school needs to be changed.
One to one
I think we are doing a great job. You can always have more of everything, but our K/1 kids have a access to a lot of great resources (desk tops, mimio, ipads, )
<b>What skills do students need to succeed in the 21st century?</b>
Communication skills; written, oral, and technology-based; global understandings and frameworks;
At our level, students need more experience and exposure to technology throughout the school day. They need more practice typing and completing daily activities using technology.
Reading, spelling, writing, arithmetic, foreign language, logic, technology
They will need the skills that will come along with new kinds of technology.
How to use the internet to conduct research and complete projects, typing/formatting documents, how to independently navigate/use devices, how to use technology to communicate
They need to understand the basics of all platforms. They should be knowledgeable about video and slideshow productions. They should know what software and websites are used for certain applications (word processing, databases, finding information, etc.). They need to have basic troubleshooting skills to solve simple problems like connectivity issues.
Basic typing and word processing skills, the ability to navigate web-based programs, making PowerPoints for projects, using learning tools such as Quizlet, etc.
Technological skills will be in the forefront for all students. Proficiency in these skills will be needed to be successful in all subject areas.
For first grade I think the kids need the basic computer skills, be able to navigate and know the vocabulary that involves a computer, be able to communicate back and forth with a device, etc.
Creativity, independent thinking, problem solving. Unfortunately, apps do not necessarily teach these things.
They need to be aware of new devices/apps out there to help them learn. They need to know how to use the internet as a resource to help them with their learning.
Our students need to be able to use a keyboard and put together presentations, papers, and so forth to be successful in higher level learning environments. Too much time on tablets seem to hinder these skills.
They need to understand the software/programs that are available to them , within the specific piece of physical technology they are using,
<b>What skills do teachers need to support students' success as 21st century learners?</b>
Same
Many of our teachers need to improve their own skills using technology (myself included). The more we know, the more we can teach our students.
Technology know how, use of Microsoft Office, how to interpret assessment data in order to adjust for curricular needs of students
They need to be open to new ways of using technology and not be afraid to ask for help. I think

our tech team does a wonderful job of holding hands if needed.
Teachers must understand and be comfortable with technology before they can help their students be successful with it. They must also appreciate and value the way technology can enhance and enrich teaching and learning.
Teachers need an in depth knowledge of all devices, software, and applications available to them. They also need to know what children in each grade level should be able to accomplish given their age, prior exposure, and previously mastered skills.
Teachers need the technological skills to be able to utilize the devices and programs at their school but they also need to be able to teach the students to use them. They need training in how to effectively integrate technology into their lessons across the curriculum.
Consistent updated training and education in the use of technology in the classroom.
I think most teachers are way behind in knowing what is out there in regards to technology. I think there should be a monthly optional meeting to inform teachers of new things or new ways to implement technology in the classroom. There is so much a teacher has to do in just teaching their students everyday, it would be nice to have at least a monthly catch up meeting in technology.
Teachers need to be informed of the goal of the technology - not just to learn to put more apps on ipads. Teachers need to learn to use the technology to teach the creative, problem solving skills.
Teachers need the TIME to practice on devices/apps/internet resources to help their students' learning. In return, I feel that they need to start putting such in their lesson plans. One or two people on each grade level should "plan" for technology to use in the grade level lesson plans.
As much extra training as available because not everyone is super tech savvy.