

Bay-Arenac ISD Technology Curriculum Preface

Technology plays a major role in our lives. Students are growing up in an information age where internet usage, electronic transactions, instant messaging, and video games are commonplace. While phrases such as, “interdisciplinary studies” or “curriculum integration” are often used, the integration of technology into the core academic areas has taken on a new identity in today’s world. With that thought in mind, the writers of this document set out to create a technology curriculum that would prepare students and staff for the technological challenges of the future.

Plans for the project began in fall of 2004. Bay-Arenac ISD contracted with John Mertz of Essexville-Hampton Schools to lead the curriculum initiative. Many resources were developed and compiled for the first team meeting in January of 2005. Team members, including teachers from all of the Bay-Arenac ISD districts, sacrificed valuable time from their classrooms over the next five months while working on the project. The team then met during five days in the summer to complete the curriculum. Bay-Arenac ISD now has a model technology curriculum.

During the first phase of the curriculum project, team members drafted grade level benchmarks for technology that are aligned to the Michigan Curriculum Framework Technology Content Standards. The benchmarks are also correlated to the International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE) National Education Technology Standards (NETS). Each benchmark is part of an instructional template which includes key concepts, evidence of achievement, instructional activities, curriculum integration, and suggested resources. During the second phase of the project, assessments were developed for each benchmark. The document also includes performance expectations based upon the ISTE project which outline the expectations for technologically literate students by grade level. Another key component to the document is the matrix which provides a snapshot view of the curriculum for teachers and administrators.

The designers of this curriculum proudly present a document that meets state and federal guidelines and has the opportunity to have a significant impact upon our staff, students, and community. This document will best be served by a deliberate and sustained staff development program including the necessary curriculum implementation and training. The technology curriculum development team, technology curriculum facilitators, and Bay-Arenac ISD staff offer their support in the implementation of the technology curriculum. It is with great pride that we present this document to help our students meet the technological challenges of today and the future.