One-to-One Device Program at St. Monica School

St. Monica Middle School has had successful one-to-one device program since the 2014-2015 school year. We've learned a lot important lessons in this process. Student engagement, increased collaboration and communication, organization and differentiation have been direct benefits resulting from the laptop program.

What is one-to-one? This means that students own their devices, which they use for the purpose of completing school work and homework. Students bring them to school and take them home every day. This is a *mere tool* for enhancing learning. *It is not meant to replace or displace the curriculum that we currently teach. It will not replace hand writing.*

Rationale: We have adopted the one-to-one model at the Middle School level to amplify what's already occurring in our technology-rich school.

- *St. Monica students have access to differentiated resources* and complete tasks at their own learning speed and level, with various options at their fingertips.

- *Our students will be even better prepared for high schools where one-to-one is increasingly becoming a reality.*

- *Collaboration and the sharing of ideas* is a skill required by all of our students today. Interaction is improved by allowing the easy exchange of information among our students and teachers.

- *Aligns with today's mobile society* where anytime, anywhere learning is a reality.

- *Standardizes and improves efficiency and cost-effectiveness* in our school, from training and use, to maintenance.

- *Facilitates the use of E-books and online textbooks and resources.* There will be some usage of E-books and online textbooks, but these will not replace our regular textbooks.

- *Supports sophisticated electronic organization* of all learning materials. St. Monica students can create, highlight, categorize, and keep their class materials in a variety of multimedia formats that are immediately available and searchable.

- *Students with advanced skills* are able to expand their skills and knowledge.

- *Students with learning differences* are better able to keep pace with classmates because they can utilize the technology to meet their individual learning needs.

- *Our students can take their laptop/device home after school so learning becomes a lifestyle not isolated to the classroom.*
- *Keeps us on the competitive edge.*

"Technology alone never holds the key to success." However, "when used right, technology is an essential driver in accelerating forward momentum" (Jim Collins, Good to Great, p. 159).

The following essential drivers have been put in place:

- **Teacher training.** Our Middle School teachers have received appropriate training to help support the needs of their students and classroom.
- **Ethical use.** Our students are taught how to use their devices responsibly, ethically and skilfully in a controlled environment, with direct teacher guidance.
- **Proper planning.** A technology plan crafted by the Technology Committee, comprised of expert parents and teachers, ensures the proper development and sustainability of the program.
- Here are some ways we utilize the 1:1 laptop/device program in 6th grade:

Here are some ways in which our 1:1 program has been utilized:

- **Literature:** *Each day the sixth graders read a selection that aligns with the weekly reading strategy and the daily reading skill. In addition, we have a mini-lesson reviewing the strategy and instruction with regard to the skill. The following day, the students have two questions posed to them on the website www.kidblog.org; one question requires them to demonstrate how they implemented the reading strategy and the other assesses their understanding of the reading skill. Lastly, we have a book report every other month that integrates technology from Windows Movie Maker to Bitstrips to Prezi.*
- **Social Studies:** *St. Monica adopted a new curriculum called TCi. This interactive textbook (www.teachtci.com) is web-based so the students can read, take notes, highlight, listen to the text and quiz themselves with flashcards and reading quizzes by accessing their student account. In addition, the teacher account allows presentations to be shown to the class, which correspond with their reading.*
- **Religion:** *After our opening prayer each day in religion class we use OneNote to reflect upon a question that springboards a conversation somehow connected to our reading for the day.*
- **Language Arts:** *Each class begins with what we call DLS or Daily Language Station. This is a daily review of language arts skills through practice questions. The students complete this daily activity in Microsoft Word and then print on Friday. In addition, a OneNote notebook is kept for language arts and grammar because we often take notes during class. All of the writing assignments we complete are done in Microsoft Word or another program that is found on the laptop/device.*