



KANSAS SCHOOLS FOR THE DEAF AND THE BLIND

STATEWIDE RESOURCES ON DEAFNESS AND BLINDNESS

www.KSSDB.org

KANSAS STATE SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF
450 EAST PARK ST. · OLATHE, KS 66061-5497
PHONE: 913-210-8200 FAX: 913-791-0512

KANSAS STATE SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND
1100 STATE AVE. · KANSAS CITY, KS 66102-4411
PHONE: 913-305-3000

July 15, 2015

Dear KSD Colleagues,

Welcome back to the 2015-2016 academic year. I hope you have enjoyed a restful and rejuvenating summer with an opportunity to pursue personal and professional projects and interests, as well as had some time to relax.

I am happy to share some exciting information regarding an initiative that the Kansas School for the Deaf is embarking on in the upcoming year. In the summer of 2015, based on recommendations by the technology committee, fifty Chromebooks have been purchased for secondary English Language Arts classes, all secondary teachers, and a select few administrative staff. Technology has changed dramatically over the last ten years. For our students to compete in the 21st Century job market, it is critical for them to have appropriate technology skills and experiences. While technology immersion does not diminish the vital role of the teacher, the KSD Chromebook initiative will immerse our students in a technology-rich instructional environment helping them to become effective users and communicators of information, better preparing them to function in a technological society.

In the past, we have used the laptop and computer lab approach to provide our students access to technology. This approach has served our students well however, due to increased daily usage and a limited number of laptops, staff and students no longer have access to technology when they need it. The technology team explored a number of options and ultimately determined that the Chromebook would best meet the overall learning needs of our students. Factors included in the decision were: functionality, design and size, battery life, availability of a variety of apps, camera availability, ease of use, collaboration, integrated curriculum with Google Apps for Education, and cost.

This initiative will include an appropriate balance of teaching, learning tools, and techniques. Technology is simply a component of this balanced approach.

Our goals are to:

- prepare students for a 21st Century environment
- increase productivity and engagement of all learners
- make student-centered learning a priority
- increase collaboration, creativity, critical thinking, and communication amongst our students
- capitalize on the convergence of academic resources such as textbooks, scholarly sources, content rich media, and best practices
- promote leadership in one's own learning by establishing access to educational resources and providing a host of tools to craft information in ways that support specific curricular areas

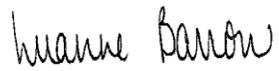


EQUAL EMPLOYMENT/EDUCATION OPPORTUNITY SCHOOLS



I hope that you enjoy the remaining days of your summer break. I look forward to seeing you on the 12th and sharing more details regarding the exciting school year ahead of us.

Best Regards,



Luanne Barron
Assistant Superintendent

