CURRICULAR TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM

At the Williston Northampton School, we believe that the educational experience of our students has been greatly enhanced through the thoughtful, guided introduction of technology into our curriculum and into our classrooms. In 2013, we launched the Curricular Technology Initiative (CTI), a mission-driven program that inspires students to use technology with purpose, passion, and integrity in an anywhere, anytime environment. Through the use of programs such as OneDrive, OneNote, and Veracross (on campus, at home, or anywhere else) students have collaborated effectively with teachers and each other while learning important organizational skills, and understanding the important differences between creating content and merely consuming it. In 2016, we changed the name to Curricular Technology Program (CTP) to reflect the fact that it is now a fundamental part of what we do here at Williston.

The CTP does not merely put a computer in the hands of every student. Instead, operating under the principles of organization, collaboration, and communication, we improve our students' technology skills to give them the proficiency they need to succeed in college and beyond. That means that in English classes, they may do real-time, computer-based editing of their papers through OneNote. In Math and Science, they will use their computer styluses to input scientific and mathematical notations. In Language classes, they will use the recording capabilities in their computers to complete oral exercises.

The cornerstone of the CTP is the Microsoft Surface Pro 5 tablet computer. The Surface Pro 5 provides the tools students and faculty need in the classroom, the place where teaching and learning begins. Running the latest Windows 10 operating system, the Surface Pro 5 can be easily converted for tablet use. It has a full-sized keyboard, a touch screen, and a stylus, so students can input data and create content for their classes in multiple ways. Students have full access to a Surface Pro 5 of their own for the school year; they can take it with them wherever they go. If students experience any problems with the device, they can visit our Technology Department for support and a quick resolution to the problem. If the problem can't be fixed right away, students will be issued another Surface on the spot. Because all of the students' work is backed up to the cloud through Microsoft OneDrive, there is no need to worry about losing work.

The CTP allows students to take full advantage of the software and systems we have in place on campus. The Surface Pro 5 comes loaded with the software students need for their classes, including the Microsoft Office suite, cloud storage and email. Our extensive wireless network means a student can, for example, access a homework assignment or send a paper directly to a teacher from the Athletic Center right before practice.

Another key part of the CTP is Veracross, our student and parent learning management system that we launched in 2014. Through Veracross, students can access homework assignments and participate in online discussions. Parents can use Veracross to keep up with what's happening in their child's classes.

In November 2018, Microsoft named Williston one of its Showcase Schools for the fifth straight year. This designation is given to only a handful of other schools in the country and it's based on what Microsoft calls "pioneering efforts and innovation in rethinking teaching, learning, and assessment in order to drive deep 21st century competencies." In addition, we have had four faculty members named as Microsoft Innovative Educator Experts. These accolades are a testament to the exceptional work we have done over the past few years to integrate technology at Williston. We are proud of the progress we have made so far, and look forward to the progress we will continue to make through the CTP.