

Tech Notes

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TECH NOTES....

A monthly newsletter to communicate trends in technology integration, quick tips, useful sites, and other relevant educational technology integration information.

BUILDING GLOBAL COMMUNITIES

Kūkulu Kaiaulu 2.0, Kamehameha Schools Education Technology Conference 2008

FEATURED TEACHERS & STUDENTS...

Kapālama Middle School Teachers and Students

ITS TEAM...

darrin sato.....manager
alan tamayose...pre-schools, k-6
don kroessig.....middle school
liz castillo.....itrt, middle school
cy reyes.....high school
mimi wong.....special project



Technologies to Enhance Learning

Kūkulu Kaiaulu 2.0

Building Global Communities, Kamehameha Schools Education Technology Conference 2008.

Our Ed Tech Conference will be held at Neal Blaisdell Center on Monday, June 9 and Tuesday, June 10, 2008. The cost for Kamehameha teachers and staff is \$50. Mark your calendars for an exciting time!

New Faces of Learning at Kamehameha Middle School - Kapālama

“I’ve become a student and learn things about the computer either from my students or with my students.”

Deane DeCastro, seventh grade teacher (2008) about the effects of 1:1 on her teaching.

Students and teachers of KMS’ 1:1 Learning program shared that 24/7 access to the laptop as a tool is advantageous and has positively affected both teaching and learning. Student representatives from each of the three seventh grade teams – Lehua, Koa and ‘Ohe – expressed that the laptops of 1:1 program made possible immediate access to extensive, supplemental online resources, namely the Internet, that textbooks, in and of itself, could not provide. The students also described how their laptops and their applications provided “digital equity” for all students, extending learning beyond school to home. Finally, and most importantly,

the students explained how the quality of their work has improved and the amount of time to do it has decreased.

These positive impacts don’t end there. Teachers, like Deane DeCastro, notice that their teaching is enhanced with students’ 1:1 access to the learning tool, and their gradual instructional transformation results in students’ greater engagement with the content, increased motivation to be creative and innovative, and quality end products. Equally defining and exciting is the first-hand realization that as teachers we are learners, and that our students have so much to teach us.

The experiences of teachers and students involved in the 1:1 Learning program at KMS are revealing that access to appropriate learning tools and an openness to learning from one another can contribute to greater learning that will benefit everyone privileged to be participate in this “evolutionary” process.

Teachers’ Perspective on 1:1

How did you feel about the 1:1 program before it was implemented?

Excited & apprehensive. I was excited for all the new learning opportunities the laptops would afford yet apprehensive because of worry that I would not have enough time to modify and develop lessons to take advantage of the laptops as well have having enough training.

How has the 1:1 program affected your teaching?

It has enhanced my teaching because I see the laptop as another tool, albeit a powerful tool, for me to use in the classroom. Information & resources are readily accessible to students so things like "What does this word mean?" and "I don't have my calculator" no longer apply.



Classroom information & handouts are also more readily accessible because it can now be put up on Blackboard. No more excuses about not having the assignment. Also turning in late work for students is easier because it can be emailed. All of these things were possible before with the classroom computers but with the 1:1 everything is more convenient.

I used to use the overhead projector and transparencies a lot and I've had to change my visual aids to be used on the computer or ELMO. I no longer use the overhead because having the overhead projector, LCD projector, computer & ELMO in the front of the room became too crowded. It's taken a little adjustment and practice getting used to teaching with the computer and Smart Board and switching through different types of media.

Grading lab reports is faster because everything is typed and easier to read. Making data tables & graphs are also faster and more sophisticated.

I've become a student and learn things about the computer either from my students or with my students.

Have I created all new lessons just for the 1:1? Yes, but only a few. Do I use the laptop everyday? No, but most days it is used although to varying degrees. For the most part, I'm doing most of the same things I've always done but have tweaked it to take advantage of the 1:1. I believe

that the laptops cannot substitute for good teaching. Ultimately the teacher still needs to have solid communication and classroom management skills as well as engaging, appropriate activities and lessons.

What observations have you made about student learning in regards to the 1:1 program? (Engaged, quality of work, motivation etc.)

Students are more engaged and motivated with most everything that's done on the computer. For example they are more apt to watch a movie from their laptop and pay attention than watching it on the screen in class. The quality of work is better in terms of appearance but there are still students who do poor work or no work at all.

My students do a lab where they collect and grow germs on Petri dishes. In the past, to collect their data they've had to draw what they saw happening in their dish. This was somewhat rudimentary and difficult for some students to do. This year, with the laptops, the students used the iSight camera to take a picture of their dishes. They then inserted their pictures into a data table and had an accurate depiction of their experiment.



Students' Perspective on 1:1

How has the 1:1 helped your learning?

There is more availability to the internet. You don't need to wait to use the computer because you have your own. Some students didn't have a computer at home and now they have one.

Since we have a laptop, we don't have to wait to use our home computer. The internet is always available.

It has made it easier because of more resources instead of using only books.

What is the best part of the 1:1?



There are a lot of programs on the computer that we can use.

It makes me feel more mature because the school is trusting me with something that's worth \$2000.

Being able to do work easily at home.

What changes do you see in the quality of your work, products, what you've learned about technology since being a 1:1 student?

My work is a lot easier to do because we have a laptop. I have learned how to type and to use a Apple computer.

When using Word, you can always spell check. Our math book is always available on our computer. I have learned to use many different applications on a Mac.

My writing has been better with the resources of the dictionary and thesaurus on the widgets. I have learned how to use Inspiration, Comic Life, and different ways to use Word.



Saving a File in PDF format.

1. Open the file you wish to save in PDF format.
2. From the menu bar, select **File > Print**.
3. The **Print** window will appear. Select **PDF** then **Save as PDF**.
4. The **Save** window will appear. By default, the file will be given the same name. (Uncheck the **Hide Extension** option to view the file name with .pdf extension). Click **Save**. (Macs only!)