

Geilenkirchen Elementary School
Geilenkirchen, Germany

SCHOOL TECHNOLOGY PLAN

Geilenkirchen Elementary School is located on the NATO Air Base Geilenkirchen, Germany. The 200 students in grades K-6 are dependents of military members stationed here. We presently have 104 high-end Pentium computers and 1 Apple iMac that are used for instructional purposes. The entire school is on a local area network (LAN). Primary classrooms have from 1-3 computers per class, while grades 3-4 have 3-8 computers per classroom and the new wireless COWS are present with 9-10 computers each, in grades 5-6. We also have a computer laboratory with 26 student stations and one teacher workstation. The computer lab and most of our classrooms have SmartBoards for instructional purposes.

VISION STATEMENT - Our school envisions technology as a tool that integrates and links all aspects of our school and community to assist all children in the learning process. Our vision is to establish a technology system that provides consistent and equal access for all learners with an emphasis on seamless integration into all aspects of the learning process. From each learner we will expect measurable performance, which is aligned with the DoDEA curriculum standards. We will teach the use of technology as well as use technology in teaching.

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PROCESS - Our school improvement goals are to improve reading across the curriculum and critical thinking proficiency for all our students. Our emphasis over the next cycle (SY 2010-2011) will be to develop school wide interventions to address these areas and in so doing improve our overall already good TerraNova scores. An integral part of this focus is to infuse technology into the strategies we use across the school curriculum so that technology becomes a powerful tool for effective teaching and assessment. The latest customer satisfaction results show the following:

Over 90% of parents and teachers responded that GKES is using computer technology for instruction. Eighty percent of the parents and teachers responded that this use of technology has improved classroom instruction. Almost three quarters responded that there was a need for an increase in the number of computers available for instruction. Our DSO has added 16 desktops, 45 Alpha Smart keyboards, 5 infocus projectors, one smart board and 2 COW systems.

EXAMPLES OF HOW TECHNOLOGY IS BEING USED

- "STAR Early Literacy" is a norm-referenced literacy test that is administered to students who are learning to read and/or experiencing difficulty reading. Pre-K-2nd grade is the appropriate age range for STAR Early Literacy. Diagnostic and summative results are available immediately following the test. The test can be given several times during the year to track a student's progress.
- "Scholastic Reading Inventory" is a norm-referenced literacy test that is administered in approximately 15-20 minutes. The SRI provides lexile levels, reading grade levels, and levels of proficiency. Teachers use the test at least quarterly to track the reading progress of their students in grades 2-6 and to help steer students toward appropriate books (over level 24 on the DRA)).
- "Reading Counts!" is a computer-based program that supports independent reading. Students demonstrate reading comprehension upon successful completion of computer-generated quizzes. The management component of Reading Counts! allows the teacher to easily track the progress of each student. Students in grades 2-6 are using Reading Counts! on a regular basis.
- "Accelerated Math" is a computer-based program that supports classroom instruction by providing practice problems and exercises tailored to the specific needs of each student. Students demonstrate "mastery" of each assigned objective upon successful completion of computer-generated tests. The management component of Accelerated Math allows the teacher to easily track the progress of each student. Students in grades 2-6 are using Accelerated Math on a regular basis.
- "Star Math" is a norm-referenced computerized math test that is administered in less than 30 minutes. Students in grades 3-6 take the test several times during the year, and the progress of students is tracked. Diagnostic and summative reports aide the instructor in evaluating the student's progress and making adequate placements within the math curriculum.
- Intranet web page design is being taught to students in grades 3-6. Most of these students can build a simple web page using CONTRIBUTE 3 and are "publishing" to the school's Intranet. Students use digital cameras, scanners, and photos from the Internet in building their pages.

- PowerPoint and Microsoft Publisher are being used by students in grades 2-6 on a regular basis as tools for presenting their reports and research. Many of our students have developed sophisticated presentations that are most impressive.
- Microsoft Excel and Publisher are used to integrate math, science and graphing with the DoDEA provided curriculum materials.
- Kid Pix and Kid Works 2 are used by students in K-3 to create graphic displays. Students use the programs to write and illustrate stories.
- Tech4Learning programs, ImageBlender, Pixie, and WebBlender, are being taught to teachers and students in grades 1-6. Each of the tools in the bundle has a similar interface, allowing users to easily move from one tool to another.
- The Internet is used by students on a daily basis as an integrated part of the writing and research process. Students may participate in monitored e-mail projects, such as writing letters to deployed parents and communicating with same-age students across the globe. Teachers and students consult sites on the Internet to expand lesson plans and participate in on-line quizzes and activity sites.
- Students in grades 3-6 have DoDDSE.net e-mail accounts. These accounts provide a safe solution for teaching the proper use of e-mail and the convenience of Digital Lockers for student work.
- Basic word processing skills and keyboarding are being taught systematically (with, Type to Learn Jr., Type to Learn 3, and Type to Learn Assessment) and are used by students on a daily basis. Keyboarding instruction is given for students in grades 1-6.
- Keyboarding is an integral part of the 3rd, 4th, 5th, and 6th grade curriculum. Training is underway with the teacher and the students. Students use Type To Learn, Jr. in grades K-2. Students in grades 3-6 use Type To Learn 3 and Type To Learn Assessment.
- Read 180 is fully implemented and students in the upper grade levels are assigned as needed.
- The school website is active and is used by parents, guests and students alike to find out information about our school.

- Critical thinking activities and websites are used to promote higher level thinking and creative problem solving. Links to useful web pages are stored on the Teacher Common Drive.

GOALS

- Students in all classrooms and all learning centers will have easy access to powerful and reliable computers that are on the local area network. Specialist classrooms will also be able to provide technology-integrated programs. Further, students will have access to SmartBoards, digital cameras, in-Focus projectors, scanners, and color laser printers.
- An educational technologist is available to all teachers to team-teach with the regular classroom teacher and reinforce specialized computer skills. All students will receive this specialized instruction from both the educational technologist and classroom teacher. Additional computer lab availability will be open to teachers upon request.
- The school's Technology Team will provide specialized training opportunities for all teachers at all levels and will allow teachers to make progress based on their specific needs.
- Computer software will be purchased that can be infused into the existing DoDDS curriculum. Computers and software are tools that will serve as an extension of the classroom teacher's abilities - reinforcing the concepts they have taught and allowing them to work with students on different levels at the same time.
- Students at all levels will be instructed in basic word processing skills. This will enable them to use technology to write efficiently. Regular and specific keyboarding instruction will be given in grades K-6 (K-2 awareness; 3-6 basic instruction).

NEEDS

In order for our school to make continued progress and to reach the established goals, the following are needed:

- Software that supports and strengthens the school's curriculum and instructional focus.

- Sufficient AlphaSmart keyboards to meet word processing needs in 2-6.
- Four computers in all K-3 classrooms and the specialists' (Spec Ed, LARS, and Gifted Education) classrooms.

PRIORITIES - Our priorities are ranked as follows:

- An additional 15 computers are needed to bring each classroom up to standard.
- 4 multimedia computers are needed for Gifted Education. The Gifted Education program is becoming more defined across DoDEA. Gifted students consistently use computers to complete projects, conduct research, and compile data. Computers designated for the Gifted Education program would free up the Computer Lab for additional classroom projects and instruction.
- Each of our specialists (6) must have a computer in his or her room available for teacher and student use.

EQUIPMENT NEEDED

- Software should be purchased that supports and strengthens the school's curriculum and instructional focus.
- 30 AlphaSmart keyboards and padded carrying cases.
- 4 Macintosh computers for video production
- 2 scanners
- 3 printers
- Color laser printer
- 4 SmartBoards