

News Brief

ICL Recognizes Pensacola Catholic High School's Laptop Program

The halls of Pensacola's Catholic High School (CHS) are buzzing with excitement over the new 1:1 laptop initiative. Each member of the graduating class of 2012 will be provided a laptop to use in the classroom and at home to enhance and enrich learning experiences. Sister Kierstin Martin, principal of CHS and the catalyst for this program, is excited over the potential of the new 1:1 initiative. She states, "Technology is the chalkboard of 50 years ago. It allows students to learn anytime, anywhere. We expect students to be creative in the context of our day, and now they can be creative in their hour, in their home, in their way." Intent that this type of learning continues in CHS alumni, the school will allow CHS students the opportunity to buy their laptops for \$1 at the time of their graduation.



In this wireless school, laptops are not an uncommon feature of the classrooms at CHS. In an attempt to form 21st Century classrooms, teachers are currently taking technology tools and using them to help students flourish. With the assistance of Colleen Glaude and Michelle Bourgeois, who provide ideas, encouragement, instructional technology support, and professional development to teachers, CHS teachers have been implementing some exciting and motivating projects for students using technology. These technology-rich projects, such as designing travel brochures in Spanish, using Google docs to collaboratively write a single paper, and creating personal wikis, have helped the school improve their efforts to integrate writing across the curriculum and improve critical thinking.



The faculty have seen the motivating effect that integrating technology into the classroom has on students, and they wait for this effect to explode with the 1:1 laptop initiative as the program encourages students to be more versatile learners who are prepared for life professionally and personally. The students are not the only ones motivated by the technology. Colleen Glaude states, "It's becoming a snowball effect with faculty"; and Michelle Bourgeois adds, "It's great seeing them collaborate and feeding on one another."

ICL applauds the innovative efforts of CHS and school's commitment to supporting the growth and learning of its students. Thank you, Catholic High School, for what you do for education!

Mark your calendar!

If you missed Harry Wong last year, he is returning on July 25, 2008 to the Pensacola Civic Center.