**Evangel Heights Christian Academy
Step 3: Technology**

**3 F. Technology (February 2008)**

**Philosophy**

**Q: Why, in light of our school’s mission, should we use technology and/or teach it?**

A: Three excerpts from our governing documents invite response.

1. “With the total support of family and church…” Technology improves the opportunity to communicate with families and churches. Mass emails, personal emails, faxes, websites, etc. all afford the school with greater access to parents and churches. EHCA has implemented RenWeb as our school management software. This technology offers immediate digital access between the family and the school. Grades, discipline, communication, etc. are all made quite simple with this web-based school software. Technology certainly gives EHCA a better chance to have the support of the family and the church.

2. “Our objective is to educate students… that they may… be prepared for this life…” Technology in the world has exploded with growth, development, and expansion. It is apparent that success in this life would include some aspect of technology training. Whether it is simply equipping a student with computer skills for basic job performance or the empowerment and facilitation of creative thinking in order to the fantastic, technology training is a must in education today.

3. “Providing a Quality Education with a Distinctly Christian Worldview… Be able to integrate and apply biblical truth in every area of his or her life so that his life is truly Christian.” It is our purpose to develop true Christian thinking. The result should be that these young Christian thinkers may exit the doors of EHCA and impact their world for Christ. In order to influence a technological world, our students must have training to enter the ring. While it is basic, our technology education program will begin the process to reach these goals.

**Objectives**

**Q: What are some of the desired results from using technology as it relates to curricular objectives?**

A: Students are permitted and/or required to use technology for a variety of educational applications. Listed below are a few examples.

1. Keyboarding is taught to all students. Many assignments (beginning in middle school) are required to be typed and printed.

2. Use of the internet is part of our curriculum. Yearbook students are required to use a web-based design program to create our school’s annual. These students also use digital photography as well as graphic design in this application.

3. Many high school assignments require audio/visual presentations. The school’s computer lab and wireless network provides these students with access to endless potentially useful digital media.

4. High school Accounting and Business Math are taught using computer-based curriculum. Excel spreadsheets, PowerPoint presentations and other software applications are used.

5. Teachers use audio/visual presentations to accomplish curricular goals. The school maintains a library of such media and has access to many more titles through our supporting intermediate unit.

6. Multimedia presentations are an integral part of many ministries today. Whether it is the weekly worship service or world-wide evangelism, technology plays a major role in ministry. Selected EHCA high school students are trained in ministry applications such as sound, lighting, digital presentations, etc. Implementation

**Q: What is the plan of implementation in regards to equipment, facilities, personnel, funding, and use policies?**

A: While the technology program at EHCA is fairly new and under development, the following steps have been accomplished and implemented.

1. Equipment/ Facilities – Every student has access to a computer, either in the classroom or on one of the 23 student computers in the computer lab. A secure wireless network with internet access is available to students with personal wireless equipment. Our school management and communication software is available to all students connected to the internet. Teachers have computers with which to communicate with students via digital file exchange, email, etc. Many downloadable documents are available from the teachers to the students. This also reduces paper usage.

2. Personnel – All staff members are encouraged to keep up with current technology as it is available in the school. Training sessions are provided as technology is implemented. EHCA has two computer teachers who are responsible for student instruction. All elementary students have computer classes. Middle and High School students have Computer, Yearbook, Accounting, Business Math, Audio/Visual Assistant as elective courses. EHCA also employs a network administrator on a part-time basis. Office administrative personnel are responsible for maintenance of school email, calendars, updates, websites, etc.

3. Funding – To date our technology program has not been funded by our main school budget. For years we have received technology grants from our state and federal programs. These monies have been made available to the school for the purchase of computer hardware, software and peripherals as well as audio/visual components. The instillation and maintenance can also be covered through these funds. In recent years, we have added our information technology program as part of our annual fundraising efforts.

4. Use Policies – The staff is not particularly restricted in use of computers, etc. The school has a system-wide filter to help block inappropriate content on all computers. The administration does not closely monitor the personal use of computers.

Students have a set of rules for use of the computer lab. Some rules include:

a. A teacher must be present in the lab at all times.

b. No food or drink in the lab.

c. No instant messaging, email, chat rooms, MySpace, Facebook, Etc. on school computers.

d. The Internet should be used only for research purposes.

e. No downloading of any material not related to a school project.

f. Teacher-approved Christian music may be played while working in the lab.

g. Students should save documents on a removable drive.

h. Students are not permitted to change any computer settings.

Classroom teachers set rules for the use of computers in their individual rooms.