**Frederick Douglas Wesson Christian Academy  
Step 3: Technology**

**PHILOSOPHICAL STATEMENT OF TECHNOLOGY**

God is a God of progress and has given man the ingenuity to invent those things that will enhance life and enable him to reach those who do not know Him. Inventors of things to enhance life can be seen in Scripture all the way back to Genesis 4:19-22 with the family of Lamech who invented the harp and the organ and made items out of brass and iron. Technological advancements not only enhance our lifestyles but increase our ability to communicate a message of redemption in visual manners that will not be forgotten. The Holy Spirit capitalizes upon us being creatures that have logical mental capacities above the animals. He chooses to bring all things to our remembrance (St. John 14:26), especially the message of the glorious gospel.

Technology affords us greater opportunities to share what has been communicated to us. The advancements in the field of technology expand and enhance these experiences. We have an opportunity to share Jesus in many creative ways that will glorify God. God, Himself, spoke to His people in many creative ways, "God who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets. (Hebrews 1:1)." He used the prophets to creatively communicate to man in a more concise and understandable manner. We, too, must teach our children how to make creative use of the various technological equipment and tools that will enhance our communication of the good news of a resurrected Savior to people of all ages.

The primary goal of the Frederick Douglas Wesson Christian Academy Technology Plan is to improve student learning. We see technology as a rich and dynamic resource for classroom use. It is a valuable instructional tool that can deepen and enrich any lesson. As we move ahead into the 21st century we see technology as being an instrumental tool for success in the following areas: project-based learning, on-line learning, global explorations, improved and expanded communication between the home and school and the school and community, and an overall improvement in basic literacy skills.

**General expected outcomes in 3 years as a result of technology use:**

This Technology plan has been developed in accordance with the requirements and guidelines developed and outlined by the school administration, staff, and technology committee. The Technology Committee consists of the Administrator, the Principal, one faculty member, and one computer tech. The plan addresses these following beliefs that:

* All students and teachers should have access to information technology in their classrooms and homes;
* All teachers should use technology effectively to help students achieve high academic standards;
* All students should have technology and information literacy skills;
* Research and evaluation will improve the next generation of technology applications for teaching and learning; and,
* Digital content and networked applications will transform teaching and learning.

**Expected student outcomes in 3 years as a result of technology use:**

* ·Every student entering grade four at The Frederick Douglas Wesson Christian Academy will possess and demonstrate basic keyboarding skills which will enable her/him to navigate through a web page and to construct and edit a basic word processing document.
* Every student at The Frederick Douglas Wesson Christian Academy will have equal access to an online experience on a daily basis.
* Students at The FDW Christian Academy will use information technology resources to engage in meaningful real world problem solving experiences.
* Students at FDW will use technology to communicate freely on a regular basis with other students.
* Every student at FDW grades 4 and higher demonstrate the ability to complete a research project utilizing technology and electronic and/or internet resources.
* Every student exiting FDW at the end of Grade 6 or higher 8 will demonstrate basic computer competencies including but not exclusive to the legal and moral ethics of technological sharing and transfer of information.

**Expected staff outcomes in 3 years as a result of technology use**:

* All FDW teachers will use technology to review, monitor and structure student learning and progress.
* All FDW teachers will use technology as a classroom management tool. ·
* All FDW staff will utilize technology as a primary means of communicating colleagues and the community. ·
* All FDW administrators will utilize technology as the primary tool for communication with staff and parents.
* Teachers and school site administrators will use technology to remain informed of the latest and most successful teaching practices.
* All FDW teachers will successfully integrate technology into every curriculum area.
* All staff will participate in a minimum of three global learning experiences utilizing Internet technology.
* All staff will demonstrate a proficiency in the use of word processing, spreadsheets, and student information systems.

**Goal statements for hardware and software**:

**Goals:**

* FDW will continue with plans to upgrade each classroom in to a minimum of 1 access point for Internet connectivity.
* FDW will strive to provide onsite in-service training in the area of computer training, troubleshooting and identification of any potential technology problems.
* FDW will provide increased technology support for sites as funds become available.
* FDW will install new hardware to achieve a minimum of 1 computer per classroom.
* FDW will obtain server upgrades and software.
* FDW will identify and purchase software to support the following target areas/skills:

1. Reading Skills
2. Science
3. Social Studies
4. Math
5. Phonics Skills
6. Keyboarding

**Funding and Budget**

**Objectives:**

* Administration will work to develop budgets which support identified priorities for funding with anticipated timelines.
* Site planning will implement technology funding from sources such as: Private Donors, Governmental Grants, & Funding Foundations

**Monitoring and Evaluation**

**Objectives**:

* Periodic reviews to assess the technology status of the school by administration and designated committees will keep it both dynamic and current.
* Monitoring and evaluation plans will be built into each component which will provide for ongoing plan review and revision.
* All components will be reviewed at least once annually with the revised plan submitted to the school board.

**THE FREDERICK DOUGLAS WESSON CHRISTIAN ACADEMY TECHNOLOGY & LEARNING IMPLEMENTATION PLAN 2004-2007 GRADES PRESCHOOL AGE 2 – GRADE 5**

**School Improvement Goal:**

That all Teachers and Staff will be computer literate and learn the techniques of technology for research, problem solving, decision-making, and reporting. As a result students will be taught how to use technology for research, problem solving, decision-making, and reporting.

**Rationale (Research):**

* Research supports with evidence the fact that computers can help students improve their performance on tests of basic skills, but many researchers investigating the use of technology in education have also found that technology is most powerful when used as a tool for problem solving, conceptual development, and critical thinking (Culp, Hawkins, & Honey, 1999; Sandholtz, Ringstaff, & Dwyer, 1997; Means, 1994). According to Reeves’ (1998) this kind of use consists of learning “with” technology. Students use technology to gather, organize, and analyze information, thus they use this information to solve problems. When used in this manner, technology is used as a tool, and teachers and students (not the technology) control the curriculum and instruction. Tool applications can be used in a variety of curricular areas (Means, Blando, Olson, & Middleton, 1993). (“The Learning Return on Our Educational Technology Investment,” WestEd, 2002)
* Technology is most influential when integrated with curriculum and assessment. In a review of studies, the (CEO Forum, 2001), concluded that “technology can have the greatest impact when integrated into the curriculum to achieve clear, measurable educational objectives.” (CARET, Center for Applied Research in Technology, 2003)
* · Research suggests that when technology is integrated into the larger instructional framework, students will not only learn how to use the equipment and software, but will also gain content knowledge (Silverstein et al., 2000). Moreover, using technology within the curriculum framework can enhance important skills that will be valued in the workplace, such as locating and accessing information, organizing and displaying data, and creating persuasive arguments (Sandholtz et al., 1997; “Critical Issue,” 1999).

**School Year**

1.0 JUNE 2004

2.0 JUNE 2004

3.0 JULY 2004

4.0 JULY 2004

5.0 AUGUST 2004

6.0 AUGUST 2004

7.0 AUGUST 2004

8.0 AUGUST - SEPTEMBER 2004

9.0 AUGUST - SEPTEMBER 2004

**Activity - What actions will occur? What steps will staff take to achieve this goal?**

1.0 FDW should receive 10 laptops from FedEx as donor

2.0 Assess the software and programs needed for the 10 laptops.

3.0 Decide how the laptops will be best used in each classroom in conjunction with the existing computer in each room.

4.0 Secure Software License

5.0 Provide third –fifth grade classrooms with internet providers (Bellsouth).

8.0 Teacher is able to apply what they have learned in conjunction with our technology goals. Teachers will be able to personally evaluate the effort.

6.0 Provide computer technology training for each teacher.

7.0 Provide computer training for integrating computer technology into the educational classroom curriculum.

8.0 Administrator & Principal and/or other community volunteers (including parents).

9.0 Integrate technology skills into existing curriculum content for grades 3rd – 5th. Focus will be on Social Studies.

**Person(s) Responsible - Who will provide leadership? Who will do the work to make sure that this activity occurs?**

1.0 The School Administrator in cooperation with an FDW grandparent, Mrs. Brown

2.0 Administrator & Principal

3.0 School Administrator and Principal with input from each classroom teacher.

4.0 Parent Volunteer

5.0 School principal

6.0 Administrator and Principal

7.0 Administrator & Principal

8.0 Administrator & Principal and/or other community volunteers (including parents).

9.0 Administrator & Principal and/or other community volunteers (including parents).

**Hardware (HW), Software (SW), Tech Support (TS) - What HW, SW and TS is needed to reach this goal? Include quantities and distribution.**

1.0 Does Not Apply (DNA)

2.0 Secure a computer tech to check each computer.

3.0 To Be Determined

4.0 To Be Determined

5.0 Software will be provided by the provider

6.0 Computers on-hand will be used.

7.0 Computers on-hand will be used

8.0 Software such and Reader Rabbit and Leap Frog, etc.

9.0 Websites will be researched by both teachers and administration. Sites will be selected based upon the projects. Steck Vaughn will be considered &, etc.

**Professional Development (PD) Needs - What professional development does the staff need in order to take the steps to achieve this goal?**

1.0 None; simply communicate with Mrs. Brown as she communicates with FEDEX

2.0 DNA

3.0 The Technology Goals will be a great determining factor in conjunction with the available equipment on hand.

4.0 Use staff meetings to train teachers about the licensing procedures and responsibilities of users

5.0 Workshops will be developed after school for Technology Training

6.0 This project is PD.

7.0 This is a PD project.

8.0 Qualified in-house staff will be used during in-service meetings.

9.0 Qualified in-house staff will be used

**Purchase / Budget /Potential Funding Source(s) - What is the cost of the additional HW, SW, TS and PD needed to reach this goal? What are the possible funding sources including grants?**

1.0 Defer to next activity for BUDGET related to the laptops

2.0 We will either use funds allotted in this year’s school budget or get donations to complete this project. Current interested school adopters are a great possibility.

3.0 DNA

4.0 Parent volunteers for fundraiser

5.0 We will either uses funds allotted in regular school budget or from interested school adopters.

6.0 If qualified staff is used, this will be determined by both Administrator and Principal. Otherwise we will secure either the paid or volunteer services from the community.

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8.0 Initially we will assess current use of software programs, see if any additional one(s) is needed. Try to improve upon what is already in place.

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**Evaluation Strategies and/or Tools - How will you evaluate the implementation of this strategy? What tool(s) will you use?**

1.0 Consistent follow up communication should yield positive results.

2.0 This must be further researched. We will network for the assistance we need for the physical work as well as the funds for products needed.

3.0 This effort will be evaluated on the basis of how effectively we are able to carry out our Technology Goals.

4.0 When license(s) has been purchased

5.0 The successful installation of internet services will be our means of evaluation or we will go back to the drawing board

6.0 How well each teacher is able to apply what they have learned in conjunction with our technology goals. Teachers will be able to personally evaluate the effort.

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8.0 Observing actual implementation and the goals set for this activity. Observation will be done by Administrator and Principal with teacher input

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**SUMMARY**

The FDW Christian Academy will conduct an annual review and update of its Technology and Learning Implementation Plan. The chart above details the process for this. Schools will do the same in the context of the annual review and update of school strategic plans.

We believe that there is a link between technology and student performance in combination with the classroom teacher’s methods, the accessibility of technology, administrative support, and the classroom environment.

We know from educational research that when learning activities are engaging and student-centered student achievement increases. Learning needs to be goal-based, relevant, attuned to the individual student’s style of learning, and holistic—that is, tied to a student’s prior knowledge, experience, and interests. Students in this type environment will achieve. Usually scores on achievement tests will generally be higher. Therefore technology is a powerful tool in the hands of a skillful teacher.

Therefore our plan of implementation takes into account the needed involvement of administration, faculty & staff, parents, and community. Our goals should bring us closer to the demands of this 21st Century, realizing that we must continuously review and update to keep abreast. So for 2004, we will focus on implementing A Technology Plan that encompasses the securing of equipment, recruiting of donors/adopters, & grant funding. We propose to initially integrate technology into the curriculum by targeting specified curricular areas, specifically science, math, and social studies.

For the safety of staff and children, FDW has developed a Use Policy for the computers and the Internet. Teachers must be familiar with this policy and must conduct 3-thirty-minute teaching session with students from grades 2 and up on its contents. Parents must review and sign. Its contents will be shared with parents in the first PTU Meeting. New teachers must attend a 15-minute Orientation session on the Acceptable Use Policy.