Kids, content, teacher, and the interaction between those three things are what matters in the classroom. With the passage of the technology levy in 2014, the Marysville School District is not only on the cutting edge when it comes to implementing advanced technological systems, it is providing equity for students, and giving teachers the skills and resources needed to meet students where they are.

Marysville School District’s Chief Technology Officer, Scott Beebe, wasn’t always convinced computing technology was a necessity in schools. “When I was working as a principal in the Northshore School District, I had sort of fallen out of being enamored with technology,” said Beebe. “I saw a few places where it was effective, but honestly you could have taken it all out of my school, and you would not see any change in student achievement.”

The attraction to the Marysville School District came during Beebe’s interview when he explained that technology is not an answer – it is a conduit to information. He wanted to be part of a team that would take risks and look beyond the tool to the teaching, and the Marysville School District was ready to do that.

When Beebe started, every computer in the District was at least eight years old. New teachers tended to have the oldest computers, and students had next to nothing in the way of technology. **CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE »**
There was very little Wi-Fi, except in some career and technical education classrooms and libraries, but even those were individual antennas plugged into existing wall jacks. It was far from meeting the needs of a student body, let alone a class of 30 students with connected devices.

Beebe knew the Marysville School District first needed to have the connected infrastructure in place for computers or other technological tools to be effective conduits to information. This resulted in the installation of more than 750 wireless access points, one in every secondary school space, and every other elementary classroom. A total of 61 miles of cable was installed to connect them, and all the work was done in a matter of months by a local Marysville company.

Once Wi-Fi was ready, it was about getting current computers in the hands of teachers and students. In May 2015, the District rolled out the first new computers deployed in over a decade to every teacher.

Beebe also recognized that when it came time to provide students with computers, they needed to do something dramatic to shift student and teacher thinking and begin an evolution in teaching practices. The District made the decision to provide a computer for every secondary student, all at once.

“This is equity,” says Beebe. “With nearly half of our community living at or below the poverty level, this is the first computer some of our students or their families have ever had. It has become not only about serving our kids, but about serving our families as well.”

Not only does the 1:1 policy create equity of access for students, it also helps students become more engaged as teachers begin to take full advantage of connected classrooms. Students have a sense of ownership of their devices, and it pushes staff, teachers and students to use all the content accessible on the Internet to help them create richer learning and teaching experiences.

This is when professional development and teacher training really becomes important. What truly sets the Marysville School District apart from other districts is a deep commitment to educating all 3rd to 12th grade teachers on how to use the tools to create connected classrooms, and ultimately shift learning outcomes for our students.

The District contracted with Eduro Learning, led by Jeff Utecht, to work with Marysville teachers on how to use connected classrooms to bolster our teaching, and create more challenging, engaging learning environments and authentic tasks for students. The work is also about helping teachers become more socially connected internally and externally with resources and teachers across the globe. Teacher classes are done in a cohort model where teachers come for a full-day of professional development, four times a year, for three consecutive years.

The Marysville School District is one of the first school districts to implement learning and technology in such a systematic way. Making an impact on student learning is not just about having the tools, it is about knowing how to use the tools, and making sure those tools work in service of student learning. Through a district-wide Wi-Fi network, a Chromebook for every student, and ongoing professional development for teachers, the District is becoming the first to create and embrace the technology used every day outside of schools in the workplace, and at home to connect to ideas, information and collaborate across time and place.

“If we want kids prepared for life after high school and we are really serious about college and career readiness, we need to get engaged in technology with them.”

“If we’re not using and embracing technological tools including social media, because we don’t understand it as adults, we simply push kids underground and create another barrier between the teachers and students and education,” said Beebe. “If we want kids prepared for life after high school and we are really serious about college and career readiness, we need to engage in the use of technology with them to solve problems and connect to ideas, information, and others.”

Through our local technology levy, the Marysville School District is doing just that. It is taking education to the next level, providing equity in learning and achievement, and implementing the technological tools that exist today to help Marysville students become the leaders of tomorrow.

Thank you to our community for supporting this important measure and making it possible for Marysville to lead the way!

Did you know?

ALL SCHOOLS HAVE WI-FI AND FREE PUBLIC WI-FI IS ACTIVE EVERY EVENING AT 5PM AND ON WEEKENDS.
Message from the Superintendent

On behalf of the entire District, thank you for making the 2015-2016 school year a great one! Over the past few weeks, I have had a chance to attend commencement ceremonies, end of the year celebrations, and award ceremonies at all our campuses. Looking at our students, I can’t help but be proud of the work we have accomplished as a community.

It truly does take a village to raise a child, and only by working together can we build a strong future for our students and prepare them for the world that lies ahead. Whether it is local non-profits like Leah’s Dream Foundation and Marysville Rotary, Kiwanis or Soroptimists, or partner organizations like the Marysville YMCA, Marysville Little League, the City of Marysville, and others, we are made strong through the love, passion and commitment we demonstrate in each of our roles.

When the April 26 School Bond failed, many of us were heartbroken. However, we are a community that strives for greatness and we will continue to work hard to achieve our school district goals, and help strengthen our community one child at a time.

Check out this issue of Connection to learn about the great things that have happened over the past few months and the fun to come this summer. Join me in experiencing all our community has to offer, get involved in something you are passionate about, and make your positive mark on the Marysville and Tulalip communities!

Get Engaged

MP FOOD COMMONS RIBBON CUTTING
Planning Committee Meeting
Interested in helping plan this community event? Email Emily_Wicks@msd25.org for more information. Our first planning meeting will take place on Tuesday, August 2, 2016, 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. in the Service Center Board Room 4220 80th ST NE Marysville, WA 98270

SAVE THE DATE
School Bond Symposiums
Join us at one of three meetings where we will discuss the April 26 school bond, gather feedback, and determine next steps.
Wednesday, September 14, 4 p.m. – 7 p.m.
Thursday, September 15, 6 p.m. – 9 p.m.
Saturday, September 17, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Service Center | 4220 80th ST NE Marysville, WA 98270

Heard around the Marysville School District...

Free SAT
In April, all juniors in the Marysville School District were able to take the SAT free of charge! “A student’s success should not be dictated by their financial situation,” said Executive Director of Secondary Education Lori Knudson.

Cinco De Mayo
Totem Middle School hosted a wonderful Cinco de Mayo celebration! Thank you to everyone who participated and attended the event! The food, music, dancing, and crowd were excellent!

A Perfect Production
The Marysville Drama Club put on a stellar performance of The Little Mermaid in May and was awarded the Educational Impact Award by the 5th Avenue Theater for bringing their show to Marshall Elementary Students!
Marysville Rotary donates $22,500 to support student literacy

Literacy is a powerful tool that enables students to be successful in the classroom today, and expands their opportunities for success tomorrow. Recognizing this, the Marysville Rotary donated $22,500 to implement the Step Up to Writing Curriculum – a comprehensive resource of multi-sensory writing strategies that develops students’ ability to create thoughtful, well-written compositions.

Rotary members presented their gift on Monday, May 9, 2016 at the Marysville School District Board Meeting. “We are incredibly proud to partner with the Marysville School District in this effort to improve student literacy,” said Rotary President Don Whitfield. “Providing this resource to District staff is key to building capable students and a strong, educated community.”

Step Up to Writing focuses on the complete writing process, provides instruction to teach each phase of writing, and ensures students understand what good writing looks like. The program helps students evaluate their own writing and the writing of others, and become confident in planning, drafting, editing, revising, producing, and publishing their original compositions.

“Step Up to Writing not only provides instructional strategies to reach college and career ready students, it also helps identify strategies to ensure instruction meets the individual needs of students across the educational system,” said Director of Elementary Special Education, Ginger Merkel. “This allows us to meet all of our students where they are, and helps them reach personal goals and overcome individual challenges.”

The Step Up to Writing program will be implemented in the 2016-2017 School Year, and will help Marysville School District special needs students from kindergarten to 12th grade increase confidence in their writing ability, learn techniques for reading deeply, better engage and collaborate with their peers, and build quality speaking and listening skills.
Making an Impact for Autism

When preschool teachers in the Marysville School District start back to work next fall, they will do so having another major tool in their efforts to help students with Autism and other developmental disabilities.

The Picture Exchange Communication System (PECS) is one of many alternative communication systems aimed at assisting those with Autism or physical limitations convey their wants and needs to others. However, what the students won’t know is that a new local non-profit corporation will be responsible for making the training possible.

Leah’s Dream Foundation, a Tulalip-based 501c3 group was established in April 2015, and has already made a huge footprint locally regarding efforts to expand the educational, medical, and rehabilitative opportunities for both students and adults diagnosed with Autism. For president Deanna Sheldon, Leah’s Dream represents a chance to support local families and a way to show other parents the generosity that at one point made such a large difference in her life.

Inspired by her daughter Leah’s own diagnosis with Autism and the interventions that made a difference, Mrs. Sheldon hopes that the foundation can help remove some of the stress that families experience when faced with the now all-too-common diagnosis of Autism. While having worked hand-in-hand with the Marysville School District to specifically develop PECS, the foundation is very involved in providing assistance across the entire community in any way that will serve it’s core mission. Co-founder and parent Alex Stacy notes that while they had been effective at fundraising for national organizations, Leah’s Dream was a chance to start something here that would be seen and felt locally.

Bolstered by a wide-range of volunteers and local sponsors such as Shelco Inc. and Reese Trucking and Excavating Inc., Leah’s Dream is growing fast and is excited about what things may be possible in the future. Amy Sheldon, also a parent of a daughter with Autism and part of the foundation’s leadership team noted the lack of activities for students with disabilities in the community, and how costly those that do exist can be for families. Leah’s Dream is now in a position to help.

Having raised more than $12,000 in their first year, Leah’s Dream will continue its fundraising effort this July with the second annual charity golf tournament, to be held at Battle Creek Golf Course. Information about the foundation or the golf event can be found at: leahsdreamfoundation.net.

Harassment, Intimidation & Bullying

Marysville School District

Report it!

SafeSchools Alert is our district’s tip reporting service. If you have information about a threat to our safety, do your part and report it! And remember, you can remain anonymous.

REPORT TIPS ON:
- Bullying
- Intimidation
- Harassment
- Weapons
- Drugs
- Other

4 EASY WAYS
- http://1248.alert1.us
- 1.248@alert1.us
- 360.799.5414
- Text your tip to 360.799.5414

Summer Support Services
Join us every Wednesday for fun activities!
June 29 - August 24
1:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Barn at Jennings Park

* Just Guys Group
* The Gamers Group
* Grief & Loss
* Chill & Spin
* Bouncing Back
* Parent Support for the Teen Years

Call 360-363-4611 for more information or to schedule individual appointments.

Get Social with MSD25

MSD25
MARYSVILLESD
MSVLSD25
MSVLSD25
2016-2017 Budget Update

It is the time of the year where school districts across Washington state and the nation develop budgets for their next school year. The Marysville School District has been studying enrollment, reviewing staffing needs for schools and the District, and analyzing allocations received by the state and local levy dollars that help districts pay for expenses like supplies and materials, transportation, and staff.

Based on anticipated student enrollment, estimated revenue and expenditures, investments in instructional materials for the coming year, and confirmed retirements and other anticipated vacancies in certificated and classified staff positions; the level of funding the Marysville School District will receive from federal, state, and local funding sources is found to be insufficient to allow the District to maintain its current budget.

The Marysville School District will be reducing its educational program for the 2016 – 2017 school year as outlined in Resolution No. 2016-12, and will be making reductions in all areas. This includes central office administrators, school administrators, teachers and support staff.

The District’s goal is to keep the impacts from reductions as far away from the classroom and students as possible, and continues to be hopeful that the state meets its requirement to fully fund education, as it is obligated to do.

We understand you may have questions and may need specific information. Please visit www.msd25.org/BudgetQs to find answers to common questions or email Emily Wicks at Emily_Wicks@msd25.org if you have other questions, comments, or need additional information.

“People who are crazy enough to think they can change the world are the ones who do.”
- Rob Siltanen

We continue to be hopeful that the state meets its requirements to fully fund education, as it is obligated to do.”