



**CLARA BARTON
OPEN SCHOOL**

YPE Team

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Our Main Question:

Do you think technology resources are equitably distributed and available to all students and staff?

Our revised question

How do you think technology resources can be used more fairly and effectively at Barton?

Our Process

As a K8 school, we wanted to get input from every grade level within our adjoined classes. We decided to divide our focus groups into four main groups based off our daily schedule. We revised our questions for younger students and made more in depth questions for the older students. We figured that if we were to really get to the bottom of this matter we had to understand the perspectives of every student and how technology influences their learning within the school.

Student and Teacher Focus Group Question

Student Focus Group Questions

1. What programs do you use on the devices? (documents?)
2. Which technology do you prefer and which do you use the most? (Ipads, Laptops, Chromebooks?)
3. Do you think that using the technology helps you learn? How?
4. Do you think Ipads/Computers always work? Are there problems? Are they broken?
5. How often do you use the devices? Would you rather use them more or less?

Teacher Focus Group Questions

1. What programs/apps does your class use the most? How do these influence students?
2. Which form of technology do you think your students prefer? Which do you have the most access to?
3. How does the cart check out form/ system work?
4. How do you think technology helps your students learn, and does technology make teaching easier? (or harder)
5. When using technology do you think your students have a hard time focusing while working?
6. How often do you use the devices in your classroom?
7. In which subject/ class do you use the devices the most often?

Angie Endo, Head of Technology at Barton: Q&A Questions

1. Who do you think uses the laptop carts the most?
2. Do you have more power over the carts? Who can check them out?
3. Do you think technology resources are allocated equally?
4. How are decisions made in regard to technology usage and allocation?
How are decisions made in regard to how technology is purchased?
5. Do you have any information on which student group uses certain technology the most?

Media Admin Q&A: What we gathered

- Laptop cart use is not consistent. (between grades or individual classrooms)
- According to the media center, the technology is allocated equally, the system is very “democratic”. The staff get to have input too.
- Decisions regarding purchasing new technology are made by the district. However there is not really a clear system.

Results Of The Student And Teacher focus Groups

Teachers Focus Group Results

1. The programs most used by 1st and 4th graders are Dreambox and Mobymax for math and Razz Kids for reading. The kids use these programs about three times a week. These programs are helpful for small groups, however Teachers are adamant that screens can replace actual teaching.
2. Both Teachers and students prefer laptops. The 1st and 2nd grade classrooms each have their own iPad cart.
3. There is an online system for the laptop/iPad carts.
4. Teachers are also concerned about security and online safety.

1st and 2nd grade focus group results

The 1st and 2nd graders use Dreambox, Mobymax, Wixie and Pebble Go on the Ipads

They use Ipads most when they are working in class.

They would like to use Chromebooks and laptops if they were allowed. They would like to use the technology more.

They like the bigger screen on the Laptops to see more things and it is easier to use.

They think the Technology helps them learn and they usually use technology in Media.

Some Ipads don't always work, cases are sometimes broken and Ipads are sometimes scratched or broken.

3rd -6th grade focus group results

- Dreambox is a program that the the 3rd and 4th graders learn the most from.
- They use technology everyday
- They also use the program Prodigy
- The older technology malfunctions a lot
- They said it's easier to find information on the computers/ Ipads
- The new chromebooks don't really have problems
- The old ipads Have lots of problems
- 3rd and 4th graders use more of the technology than the 1st and 2nd graders

7th and 8th graders focus groups

7th and 8th uses google docs, desmos calculator, google slides and sites for research for the most time.

They prefer the Macbooks more than other technology

They think that technology helps them learn more because they have more access to info and it is easier to get to.

The Ipads have more problems than any other technology. They are slow and malfunction. They also can't run everything. They have less security.

They use technology almost everyday in social studies and they would like to use them more in other classes.

Recommendations And Conclusion

Our Thoughts and Recommendations

- We need a more organized and useful system for teachers to reserve technology. (Especially during times of testing, teachers still need to use technology to do class work while other classes do testing)
- We think that in order to make sure that kids aren't losing class time because of faulty technology teachers should have training with how to deal with the technology. We also think that teachers should be trained in using the software that is available to them to enhance their teaching.

Conclusion

We concluded that to distribute the technology at our school better, there should be more communication between teachers in regard to checking carts out and better communication between teachers and students in general.

We also think that there should be teacher training in regard to using the technology and for security purposes.

Thanks For Listening!