

Plainville Citizen Op-Ed, October, 2014

The Plainville Board of Education's mission is to "*provide rigorous and enriching experiences that prepare each student for success in a changing global society.*" As a bold and innovative first step toward that mission, the Board of Education supported a one-to-one Chromebook implementation for all students in grades 8 through 12 beginning in the fall of 2013 and expanded this to include students in grades 5 through 12 in 2014.

As part of this exciting initiative, the district is working to provide teachers with professional learning experiences that will fundamentally change the ways that we teach our students. Technology integration requires changes to the resources we use for learning and teaching, the roles that teachers play in the learning environment, the roles that students play, and the nature of the instructional activities we design and use in the classroom. We are working to provide students with more authentic learning activities that encourage student choice and promote high levels of thinking and creativity. In addition, the technology allows students to collaborate with other students, teachers, and mentors or experts in their field of interest.

Engaging students in learning activities that meet the standards while allowing them to explore ideas and create projects to share their learning with others is a major goal. Teachers in a number of courses are already beginning to shift their instruction toward this goal. Students are being encouraged to think and act like scientists, historians, and mathematicians. Seniors are developing thinking, inquiry, speaking, and presentation skills in a newly developed "Senior Seminar"

course designed to build their competency in communication and presentation skills.

As we continue to integrate technology into our learning and instruction, we hope to build self-directed, lifelong learners able to set goals for their own learning, take action to meet those goals, monitor their progress toward meeting those goals, and evaluate their success as they extend their learning to new situations. We are committed to finding ways to unleash the power of technology as a tool for student engagement, inquiry, and learning and to “provide rigorous and enriching experiences that prepare each student for success in a changing global society.”