

## **For Educational Technology students**

### **Assignment #1: Knowing Your School's Technology Culture**

#### **Due dates:**

**Project Description:** You are an anthropologist whose mission is to understand the technology culture of your school. You want to understand it not only because you are interested in how technology is perceived and used, but also because the data you gather will help you be a more effective member of your school's teaching community. The essential questions you seek to answer are:

- What are the technology capabilities of your school and how can you use them?
- Who are the leaders within your school? Consider faculty, staff and students.
- What official technology plans and policies exist?
- What competencies have been defined by your school or district in the area of technology?

#### **Specifically, provide answers to the following:**

##### **I. Technological Capabilities**

1. How many computers are in your classroom? What software is available? Can you reach the Internet from your classroom? Is there a TV and VCR? A cable connection? What programming is available to you?

2. Does your school have computer labs? How do you sign up to use them? What is the average amount of time you can expect to use a week? What software and hardware is available? Are there Internet connections to all the computers?

3. Who has the specialty gear in your school, such as scanners, digital cameras, video cameras, and so on? What do they have? How can you borrow it? What can you offer them in return?

## **II. Leadership and Policies**

4. Does your school have an ed tech plan? If so, obtain a copy and read it. Add it to your notebook. How does the mission statement guide you in the kinds of things you can and should do with your students?

5. Does your school adopted or established competencies for students? If so, obtain a copy and read it. Add it to your notebook. How does the mission statement guide you in the kinds of things you can and should do with your students?

6. Who are the ed tech leaders within your school? Who is on your school's ed tech committee? How often do they meet? Are there members from outside the school (parents, community members, and so on) who are involved? What do they do?

7. Who are the student leaders in technology? Are there programs that allow them to use their expertise to help teachers and other students?

8. Does your school have Internet use policies? Is there a parent permission policy that needs to be observed/signed? Is there a student responsibility policy? If so, get them and add them to your notebook.

9. If something breaks, who fixes it? Is there someone in the building? Do you need to contact people at the district?

10. Are there any special programs that use technology in your school?

11. You may not be able to answer this question yet. If not, then "file it" as an important question to ask yourself now and then: What is the overall attitude toward using technology in your school?

### Suggested Scoring Rubric

<b>Trait</b>	<b>pts</b>	<b>Explanation</b>
Spelling	5	Are words spelled correctly? 1 pt deducted for each misspelled word.
Grammar, flow -	20	Does the writing flow and observe standard grammatical rules?
Satisfies reporting aspect of the assignment	50	Have you collected, managed, and presented the information required by the assignment?
Synthesis, assessment	25	Have you demonstrated an understanding of the information presented? Have reflected on its utility to you as a teacher?