

North Montgomery

Blended Curriculum and iPad initiative

Northridge Middle School

Why a Blended Curriculum?

Blended curriculum involves the use of current print media sources such as textbooks, with a 1:1 device. With this added dimension, we have an expanded capacity for modern education which provides for:

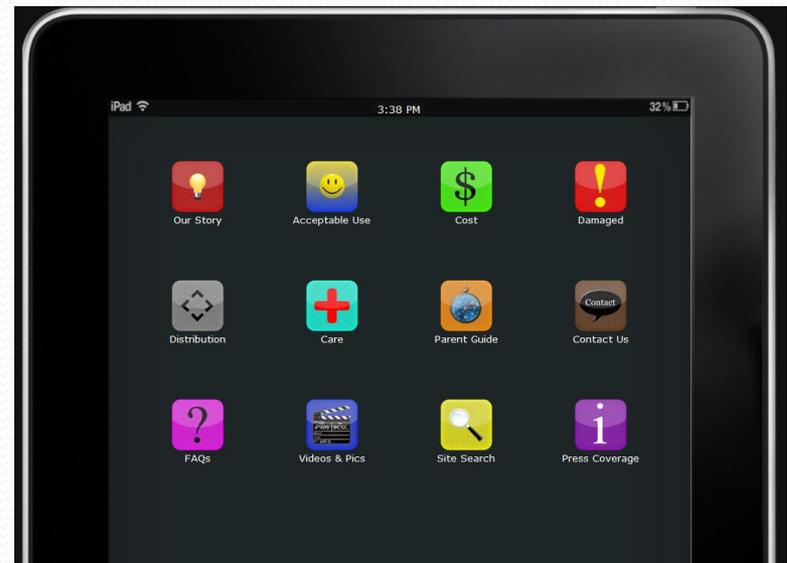
- Authentic Learning - Students use 21st Century skills to solve real world problems.
- Customized Learning - Self-paced differentiated instruction allows students to learn at an appropriate pace.
- Anytime Learning - Learning is no longer confined to the school hours. Students learn at a time convenient for them.
- Anywhere Learning - Access the course material anywhere, study at home, at work or wherever convenient.

Why a 1:1 Initiative at Northridge?

- Increases student achievement.
- More opportunities to individualize or differentiate standards-based instruction for a continuum of learners and abilities. Digital programs such as ALEKS. Math, Pearson Reading, My Big Campus, iBooks (downloadable homework not requiring Wi-Fi) & Google Docs help teachers pinpoint leveled assignments.
- Students will take high stakes assessments like Acuity and ISTEP on devices that they are familiar to them.

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- Immediate feedback for teachers to help identify students that need remediation or enrichment.
 - Maximizes student accountability with digital homework (no escaping/forgetting book).
 - Increases interaction between staff and all students, with 24/7 access via e-mail, learning management system and Google.

- Complements project-based learning in which learning is driven by projects requiring research, collaboration, and production of a final product.
- Broadens learning beyond the classroom and allows for taking advantage of a teachable moment.
- Enriches lessons as students can tie real life situations to standards.



- Levels the playing field for students who do not have access to devices.



- Increases 21st Century skill development, preparing students for tomorrow's workplace.
- Provides daily practice of digital citizenship and an increased emphasis on communication, critical thinking, problem solving.
- Increases digital skill development of staff and students. Technology literacy is now a standard in every content area.



- Computer labs are at capacity with standardized testing - 1:1 devices will allow middle school students to be tested on familiar device.
- The new assessments in 2015 and 2016 will all be online.
- No more interruption of classes for testing like Business, Gateway to Technology, or other classes in computer labs.



Research

- Increases quality and quantity in writing. This will be important with advent of the new ISTEP.
- Provides greater teacher awareness of student progress. Better able to monitor student progress, student understanding, and application of skills.
- Increased attendance.
- Decreased office referrals (10% less).
- Fewer issues with social media.
- Increased ISTEP performance.

Why Now?

- Teacher leaders and administrators are in place and ready to go - high school mentor teachers will be very helpful to middle school staff.
- More efficient to accommodate entire building once than one grade level per year.
- Provide the same level of secure access to the Internet as school when we issue the devices.
- Rainy Day Fund and CPF can **initiate and sustain** the shift to a blended curriculum now and overtime (textbook rental eventually decreases as technology resources increase).
- Professional Development plan is underway - the PD plan would be better school-wide than fractured by transitioning one grade level per year.

Proposed Cost

- \$7 per class X 15 classes = \$105 (50 cents less per class with no social studies adoption this year. Student handbook will be digital so no fee for that.)
- \$40 iPad rental
- **Total - \$145**