

## **Education Technology Philosophy Grades 6, 7, and 8**

The philosophy of the computer curriculum is that the computer is a *tool*, not a *class*. Technology should be an everyday part of every student's life. Just as students are taught to use a compass and protractor in math or dictionaries in English, they must also be taught the capabilities of computer applications. Every student with access to these tools should be taught to use them to their full potential.

To reach that objective, students must first be taught the basic skills such as use of the network, keyboarding, and file management. The lower grades will have a greater focus on these skills, as well as on the use of educational software for learning and enjoyment. As students reach the 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade levels, the focus shifts to the mastery of productivity software such as word processors, databases and spreadsheets, using inter-disciplinary projects tied to the content areas. The overall focus also shifts to more advanced projects incorporating Internet research. Finally, a key objective is to provide students with the digital literacy and critical thinking skills required to become "information consumers" who continually evaluate content on the Internet.

As much as possible, computer teachers must work closely with subject area teachers, so that work in the computer lab complements and supports classroom instruction.