

Appleby College

Canada's First Secondary School to Fully Integrate Technology into Curriculum

Categories:

- I. Access, technology integration
- II. ThinkPad school
- III. Web technology
- IV. IBM partnerships

Project Overview and Objectives:

Appleby College, located in Oakville, Ontario, launched its e.school@appleby program in October 1998, with the goal of providing leading edge education by equipping every student and faculty member with IBM ThinkPads. Appleby has a strong liberal arts tradition and as such, there are no "computer teachers" at the school. Use of technology is fully integrated with the curriculum and the various departments are responsible for using appropriate technology as required in their just-in-time learning approach. The tool is tied to the subject where it is taught in context, such as geography's use of Geographical Information Systems (GIS) software to present modern concepts more difficult to teach without GIS system.

For access to electronic resources, students can "plug in" to the extensive network of ports all over the campus. This includes all classrooms, residence buildings and a student computer centre.

IBM Canada K-12 Education and Appleby College recently entered into a five-year partnership. IBM has been designated as the exclusive technology, financing, and service partner for all Appleby College's current and future e.school initiatives involving IBM ThinkPads, servers, workstations, Lotus Notes, IBM e-business Consulting services and IBM Global Financing.

Stakeholders:

Appleby College - <http://www.appleby.on.ca/>

IBM Canada K-12 Education - <http://www.ibm.com/industries/ca/en/education/k12/>

Outcomes:

Since the implementation of Appleby's e.school@appleby program, the laptops have become the pencil and paper of education in the new millennium. Appleby College is the first secondary school in Canada to fully integrate laptop computers and multimedia equipment into their challenging academic curriculum. Since September, 1999, every student from Grade 7 through OAC has ThinkPads that are used all day, every day to take notes for class, research, browse library catalogues, complete projects, e-mail teachers and peers or "surf the net".

Access to human resources through technology has also changed the traditional teacher/student relationship. Students now can communicate more easily with their peers and teachers and tend to use them more as resources and for getting extra help. "The use of the laptops allows us to be more organized," says math teacher Kristina Farentino.

"Students can send me questions and concerns quickly, and I can respond quickly. But the most important use is the ability to display lessons clearly and concisely, and to allow the students to learn and work at their own pace."

Having their own laptop and access to the Internet is very motivating to the students and has definitely become their preferred way of learning and working.

The teachers tend to be more current with what is happening in the real world through using real world applications in their curriculum and stretch their students' imagination with engaging resources. Headmaster Guy McLean says, "At Appleby, we realize technology will play a significant role in our students' future. The e.school program will undoubtedly better prepare them for the next millennium. The laptops are proving to be valuable teaching aids for faculty and valuable tools for the students."

For More Information...

Appleby College, <http://www.appleby.on.ca/>

IBM Canada K-12 Education, <http://www.ibm.com/industries/ca/en/education/k12/>

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