Stephen Fink

Educational Technology

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AnthroTech Assessment Reflection

Currently, it seems that Palmer High School has a technology culture that is slightly behind the everyday reality of its average student. By this I mean that the average student has internet access at home, at least one device by which to access it (smart phone, laptop or tablet), and spends a few hours online per day. The school has internet access, but the amount that it is used for educational purposes is about two times per month. This usually happens when a class takes a trip down to the computer lab or something. All classes are equipped with a Promethean board, and there are many classes that make use of them every day. They’re essentially smart boards the size of a projector screen. However, the amount that internet is used on them is perhaps an average of an additional two times per month.

I would say that the overall attitude about the level of support concerning the use of technology here at Palmer high is that we need more. Of the two staff meetings that I have been to, the most popular topic was IT problems. However, we have a new IT guy this year, and many teachers have expressed their appreciation for his responsiveness and timeliness. Also, this year a new computer lab opened up, which gives more teachers and students access to online activities. The more computers there are the more opportunities classrooms have to use the labs. There is a sign-up sheet that teachers use to coordinate for lab use.

As a Student Teacher, I can do my best to give students technological agency by gaining access to computer labs for class, having them use their smart phones for certain assignments, and using technology in my lectures. If I had a budget and the authority to use it for technology, I would continue with the district’s goal of providing enough laptops for each student to have access to one. As I heard in the last staff meeting, the district is shooting for a one to one ratio of laptops to students in the next three years. I think that would be great, and if we can utilize technology to its full potential within secondary education, I believe it will make a world of difference.