

Technology News 2011-12

Welcome to what should be an exciting new school year at St. Charles School! We've been busy all summer upgrading the technology around the school, so let me tell you about what we've done. First, in the computer lab, we purchased a Windows MultiPoint Server 2011 system to replace the 26 individual computers in the lab. Those 26 machines used a lot of electricity and generated a lot of heat in the room, but now each of four state-of-the-art servers run all the software for 6-8 users. This should reduce our cooling and electricity requirement considerably. We have also installed wide screen LCD monitors at every student station. Once we finish the final steps to install a fiber optic T-1 line to speed up access to the Internet, St. Charles will be the only private/parochial elementary school in Albuquerque to have a high speed fiber optic connection.



In addition to upgrades in the computer lab, we obtained upgraded computers from Sandia National Labs for all the classrooms. These upgraded machines will allow students to take advantage of the faster Internet connection for their research and classroom activities.

The school's goal is to help students acquire the skills they need to survive in a complex, highly technological knowledge-based economy. At the elementary level, we begin with basic productivity skills such as keyboarding, word processing, and presentation software that will allow students to creatively demonstrate their knowledge in all curriculum areas. Middle school students will fine-tune these skills to make them ready for the rigors of high school. In addition, teachers at all levels are committed to designing lessons which will allow students to conduct research and use information they gather to collaborate with others on projects, and to think critically and solve problems in a variety of subjects. In addition, these lessons will reinforce the importance of using digital technology in a safe, legal, and ethical manner.

One other big change at the school is the implementation of a new "Parents' Web Portal" which will make it easy for parents to stay informed and connected. Parents will be able to securely login to the system, and easily access a wide variety of information, including grades, schedules, assignments, attendance, school directories, and more. Look for your invitation with a user name and password for Sycamore Education to arrive in September.



I look forward to meeting you at the school open house and picnic on August 26.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Barbara Menicucci

Technology Coordinator
St. Charles Borromeo School