Technology Update

ST. CLAIR CATHOLIC
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
Lighting the Way ~ Rejoicing in Our Journey

BYOD Pilot Project

Last May, St. Clair Catholic launched a BYOD (Bring Your Own Device) pilot project at St. Philip Catholic School in Petrolia, for Grade 5 to 8 students; and a second pilot for staff at St. Christopher Catholic Secondary School, Sarnia. Based on the results, the Board will move forward with expansion of both the BYOD initiative and wireless technology in schools across the district.

"In just a month-and-a-half, we had a 33 percent participation rate among staff at St. Christopher," says Deb Crawford, Superintendent of Education. "That's well above the industry standard of 30 percent participation at the end of the first year, so we are pleased with that result and will continue to expand BYOD and wireless technology across the district."

Brendan Deery, Principal of St. Christopher Catholic Secondary School, says staff who have begun using their own devices report that BYOD and the accompanying wireless access in the school give them greater portability and flexibility in transferring files from home to school and freer access for on-line research, as the main benefits.

At St. Philip, Grade 5 teacher Susan Osso says BYOD has given students in her class "another tool" for accessing information.

BYOD allows students to bring their own iPods©, iPads©, tablets, netbooks and laptops into the classroom. Under the program, it is anticipated that greater familiarity and availability of technology will increase student motivation and enhance student learning. However, students who do not currently have their own devices will continue to have access to the Board's excellent quality school-provided equipment. BYOD is part of the Board's commitment to allowing staff and students to move forward in a 21st Century learning environment, which recognizes the important role of technology in research, collaboration and communication.

To view a video about BYOD go to www.st-clair.net/information-services-.aspx

Expansion of Wireless Technology

In conjunction with St. Clair Catholic's BYOD program, wireless technology will be expanded to all schools across the district.

At the close of the 2011-2012 school year, all three secondary schools and eight elementary schools had complete wireless technology throughout the buildings. With tremendous support from Facility Services staff, Information Services staff brought eight more elementary schools on line during the summer of 2012.

"This leaves just ten elementary school sites yet to be equipped with wireless technology, which is on target with the Board's technology plan," says Mrs. Crawford.

Installation of the wireless networks at schools includes infrastructure upgrades to help support the networks and ensure that wireless access is fast and reliable.