

**Arvon Township School District  
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**Educational Technology Plan**

**July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2018**

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**Copper Country Intermediate School District**

**[www.arvontownshipschool.org](http://www.arvontownshipschool.org)**

# **Arvon Township School District Educational Technology Plan**

## **Mission Statement**

Arvon Township School will set a strong academic foundation to ensure all students succeed in scholastic endeavors within a clean, safe, disciplined, and attractive learning community. The ultimate mission of the Arvon Township School, in partnership with homes and community, is to provide a collaborative learning environment that enables all students to become respectful, self-motivated, independent learners who can successfully adapt and contribute to our ever-changing society

## **Introduction - District Profile**

Arvon Township School is a small rural K-6 school district located in Baraga County in the western part of Michigan's Upper Peninsula. The student count has varied between 5 – 15 students during the past ten years due to fluctuating demographics. Currently, in the 2015-2016 school year, we are teaching 9 elementary students between kindergarten and 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> grades. Arvon Township's 7<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> graders are bused to L'Anse or Baraga school districts and our current count of high school students is 15.

Arvon Township counted 450 residents in the 2010 census. The township is sparsely populated with a large number of retirees. The district contains many miles of shoreline property along Lake Superior and many taxpayers do not live here year round. Because of our high taxable assessed value and low student count we are considered out-of-formula and do not receive state aid. All of our school revenue comes from local property taxes. We have one school building and two teachers.

Because of the relatively isolated nature of the community, the public school must provide educational resources and opportunities for the youth of the community. We currently employ one teacher/principal, one full-time teacher and two part-time aides.

The school features a small family atmosphere providing multi-grade level interaction and assistance. The students often work together fostering cooperative approaches and emphasis. Yet there also exists much individualized attention at the various grade levels. Currently each student has access to computers within each classroom. Along with the core curriculum requirements, additional specials are Spanish, music, physical education and art. Various enrichment activities and field trips provide a rounded out educational experience for Arvon Township's elementary students.

## **Vision and Philosophy**

Arvon Township School is a place for the community to gather around its children to nurture academic, individual and social growth. Arvon Township School believes that all students can learn essential skills at each grade level, regardless of family background, socioeconomic level, or gender. We believe that the small multi-age environment of Arvon Township School offers collaborative learning opportunities. It provides younger students with more exposure to higher-level concepts and older students with more reinforcement of previously learned skills.

As stated in the school improvement plan all Arvon students in grades K-6 will:

1. Learn appropriate grade level skills as designated by Michigan's Standards in reading-language arts, mathematics, science and social studies.
2. Will learn and practice real-life problem solving skills.

3. Parents and community will be invited and urged to attend school events, activities and development.

In alignment with the portion of the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act known as 'Enhancing Education Through Technology Act of 2001' (E2T2) has a goal: *To assist every student in crossing the digital divide by ensuring that every student is technologically literate by the time the student finishes the eighth grade, regardless of the student's race, ethnicity, gender, family income, geographic location, or disability.*

4. Will develop technological literacy as articulated by the National Educational Technology Standards and the Michigan Educational Technology Standards through the responsible and developmentally appropriate integration of technologies throughout the curriculum.
5. School personnel, in support of school improvement efforts, will apply current technologies for information management, data collection and communications.

## **I. Curriculum**

### **Element A. Integration**

Teachers and administration are engaged in on-going curriculum development through collaborative achievement, data analysis, and alignment activities addressing Michigan Standards.

In supporting technology literacy, Arvon Township School believes that technology is a tool used to solve problems, improve productivity and communication, and a means to learn more effectively. Textbooks, materials, technologies, and lessons are chosen based on their ability to cover the Michigan Standards.

Curricula and teaching strategies will be identified through a variety of professional development activities. Arvon communicates regularly regarding these issues with Copper Country Intermediate School District, REMC, and Computer Mechanix. Teachers and administrators engage in offered trainings, classes and workshops throughout the year.

The district believes that the new technologies should be a daily part of the student learning experience and the teachers' instructional methods.

Computers, software and accompanying accessory hardware that has direct application to the curriculum and the students' learning needs are provided. Technology is used as a means of individualizing instruction.

Arvon Township School offers specific classroom instruction in computer science. Subjects studied will include keyboarding, word processing and programs within Microsoft Office. Interactive learning will include white boards and notebooks.

Arvon Township School integrates technological software and Internet services into the four core content areas of the curriculum. Software support materials are purchased in conjunction with textbook programs. These are for use by the teacher and student in planning, delivering and assessing learning.

The District also uses technology to provide courses that would otherwise be unavailable to students. Our district is only K-6, so the opportunities are directed to this level and include: web quests, virtual tours, Read Naturally, Spelling City, Superstar Phonics, ABC Mouse and video streaming. These programs broaden the students' awareness of the greater world.

Students will use a variety of sources and tools to research inquiry questions and practice real-life problem solving within core curriculum areas. Tools to measure, gather data and locate information may include, but are not limited to, web-quests, video streaming, Michigan e-library, electronic library catalogs, calculators, rulers, scales, thermometers, GPS, microscopes, hand lenses, compasses and barometers. Assessment of a tool's appropriateness will be ongoing and overt within the instructional setting.

Students will use a variety of means to organize, synthesize and analyze information. These means may include but are not limited to spread sheets, graphic organizers, charts, and graphs.

Students will progressively develop multi-media presentation skills through the use of graphic programs, scanners, digital cameras, recording devices, tablets and audio equipment. Students will present projects to a variety of audiences through various means. Teachers and students will learn and adhere to guidelines respecting intellectual property rights and integrity when gathering information and constructing projects.

### **Curriculum Element B. Student Achievement**

Support software will be purchased in conjunction with core teaching materials to assist in individualizing and assessing student progress.

Other support and assessment resources will be sought for and identified by instructors for students to engage in on an as needed basis. These may include e-mail or list-serve dialogs with parents or other professionals with common concerns. They may be specific web resources targeting a specific student or group goal.

Teachers will use on-line assessment tools for gathering data of student progress. Information will be used formatively for long and short term planning and preparation. Immediate feedback will also provide opportunities for students to be aware and take ownership in their individual progress.

With in the next three years Arvon Township School will:

- Maintain an up-to-date web site that is accessible to teachers, staff, students, parents and the community.
- Review and update curriculum software.
- Increase the awareness of the technology available and provide instruction in how to utilize it.
- Provide on-going training and support necessary for teachers to use technology effectively in the classroom and to integrate technology-enhanced methods into their teaching.
- Increase the amount of technology integrated in the curriculum aligned with the Michigan Standards.
- Continue to develop student skills using technology.
- Continue to increase student abilities to use equipment appropriately.
- Maintain compliance with changing state requirements such as CIPA.
- Continue to research new technology and report results to school board members for consideration.

Teachers will use on-line assessment tools such as DIBELS, Read Naturally and AIMS Web for gathering and retrieving data of student progress. Information will be used formatively for long and short term planning and preparation. Immediate feedback will also provide opportunities for students to be aware and take ownership in their individual progress.

### ***Curriculum Element C. Technology Delivery.***

Arvon Township School district currently maintains DSL internet connection filtered for CIPA compliance. Each classroom has internet access which is used throughout the day for information gathering and communications.

The district has access to a variety of distance learning opportunities through the CCISD and REMC. Our actual enrollment being only K-6 over the last few years has made distance learning a low priority. However, as the student ages increase and the curriculum calls for it these technologies will be considered.

#### **Curriculum Element D. Parental Communications and Community Relations.**

Parent and community involvement is of utmost importance as stated in our vision statement. Arvon Township School communicates its goals, expectations and accomplishments to the community in a variety of ways. Class newsletters are prepared regularly for the students' parents and these newsletters highlight the latest events or educational experiences provided for their child. An annual report is mailed to all township residents and is made available on the district's web site. Newsletters or informational sheets are mailed as well.

The district is currently in the process of maintaining and improving a school website. This will greatly improve school/community communication. Our community has a large seasonal and retirement population. Many supportive individuals and school family members are away for part of the year. Electronic information delivery is appreciated.

Parents are encouraged to participate in several evening learning programs. These programs are open to the general public. They include Michigan Technological University's Western U.P. Science Fair, art, and music programs. Additionally, there are family curriculum nights and other intergenerational learning opportunities provided by the district in collaboration with community stakeholders such as Michigan Technological University, the Copper Country ISD, and L'Anse and Baraga School Districts.

Parents and other community members are surveyed by phone or in writing regarding various aspects of school improvement. Questions specific to technology are included in these surveys. The school board, teachers, administrators and the School Improvement Team review and consider these surveys. Arvon's School Improvement Team and technology committee have parent and community representation.

#### **Curriculum Element E. Collaboration**

Arvon Township School is not a direct provider of adult literacy services due to its limited resources and community need. Community partners including the CCISD, Michigan Works, and the Baraga-Houghton-Keweenaw (BHK) Child Development Board's Even Start program who provide these services.

#### **Curriculum Element F. Professional Development**

*(Professional development strategies are in place to ensure that ALL the staff and administrators are made aware of how to use available technologies to improve student learning.)*

The Arvon Township School District will provide funds for equipment and professional development of all staff so that staff members will become familiar and proficient with the current technologies.

In accordance with the School Improvement Plan, Arvon Township School provides a minimum of 30 professional development hours for teachers and administrators annually. Specific trainings have included 21 Things, on-line resources for curriculum development and alignment, electronic resources for School Improvement, differentiated instruction, literacy trainings and educational leadership course work.

Aides also attend conferences for applicable training annually, more as needs and opportunities arise.

The administrative and teaching staff will take advantage of professional development opportunities offered by REMC1, the CCISD, Northern Michigan University and other technology conferences or workshops appropriate for this school district. Those who attend a professional development session will share their knowledge with other members of the staff.

Professional development in technology proficiency will not be limited to computers only, but will include calculators, digital cameras, scanners, interactive whiteboards and any other technical equipment necessary to enhance the curriculum through delivery and instruction.

The district, CCISD and REMC1 provide assistance and support for networking, trouble-shooting and training/staff development activities. Arvon's network server and computer hardware and software is maintained by contracted services through Computer Mechanix.

### **Curriculum Element G. Supporting Resources**

The Arvon Township School now maintains a website. Links include the curriculum guides, the annual calendar, annual report, summer program updates and other information of interest to the parents, staff or community members.

On-line ordering of commodities, library and other supplies allows an easy and efficient way to procure products for the school.

Arvon Township School receives on-line learning and assessment materials from Renaissance Learning, AIMS Web, and Read Naturally. Parents also have access to individual student reports.

### **Infrastructure**

Currently, Arvon students have access to 6 computers all with high-speed (DSL) access to the Internet. Each computer is networked to a central server and printer. There are two laptop computers dedicated for teacher use and one PC strictly for office use. Other technologies current available are a scanner, fax machine, photocopier, two overhead projectors, a digital camera/video media recorder, two interactive whiteboards, and 6 tablets. Arvon Township School will be looking to acquire digital projection and recording devices.

Within the next three years, Arvon Township School will:

- Continue to increase access to computers, digital, and video technology including notepads for students' home use and programs for interactive whiteboards.
- Upgrade the network with switches and cables as necessary.
- Upgrade/replace computers and printers in the classrooms as necessary so they are able to accomplish what is necessary to meet curriculum needs and maintain currency.
- Provide on-going professional development to ensure technological competency of the staff.
- Utilize technology in communication, data collection, ordering supplies, and other areas to aid efficiency.
- Provide technology adapted to individual needs to assist students in improving academic achievement.
- Increase access to virtual fieldtrips and collaborative opportunities.
- Continue to provide keyboarding and computer education curriculum and use projects in real-life situations.

The interoperability of equipment is insured through contracting with a local consultant and REMC1 as development and adjustments are made within the system.

## Required Element I. Increase Access

Wireless technologies will be enhanced to provide increased access for students and teachers.

Distance learning opportunities are available in cooperation with CCISD, REMC 1 and L'Anse Area schools. Through the CCISD and REMC1 distance learning equipment will continue to be updated and utilized to provide mobile video access within district buildings to outside resources.

### Funding and Budget

This annual budget will be reviewed and adjusted as necessary by the Arvon Township School Board of Education per recommendation by the Technology team.

- \$540 Opus Web website hosting
- \$2400 Phone, fax, DSL
- \$300 Professional development
- \$2492 Technology support from Computer Mechanix, (approx 200/month for repairs, internet filtering etc.)
- \$1552 Software: Spelling City \$53, Reading and Science A-Z \$186, DIBELS \$50, AIMS Web \$204, Scholastic Printables \$60, Core Clicks \$999
- \$1000 Hardware: replace student computers, teacher lap-tops, tablets, audio enhancement devices or other technology

School Year 2015-2016
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- \$540 Opus Web website hosting
- \$2400 Phone, fax, DSL
- \$300 Professional development
- \$2492 Technology support from Computer Mechanix (approx 200/month for repairs, internet filtering etc.)
- \$1000 Software: Spelling City \$53, Reading and Science A-Z \$186, DIBELS \$50, AIMS Web \$204, Scholastic Printables \$60, Core Clicks \$999
- \$1000 Hardware: replace student computers, teacher lap-tops, tablets, audio enhancement devices or other technology

School Year 2016-2017
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- \$540 Opus Web website hosting
- \$2400 Phone, fax, DSL
- \$300 Professional development
- \$2492 Technology support from Computer Mechanix (approx 200/month for repairs, internet filtering etc.)
- \$1552 Software: Spelling City \$53, Reading and Science A-Z \$186, DIBELS \$50, AIMS Web \$204, Scholastic Printables \$60, Core Clicks \$999
- \$1000 Hardware: replace student computers, teacher lap-tops, tablets, audio enhancement devices for computers or other technology

School Year 2017-2018
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Funds currently available come from federal programs and local revenues. Arvon township school is also a member of the Copper Country ISD and REMC. These organizations provide many opportunities for maximizing and sharing financial resources. The district will participate in these initiatives reducing purchasing and professional development costs when possible.

The district will investigate and develop revenue resources to ensure sustainability of technology resources.

## **Required Element K: Coordination of Resources – Section 14**

Arvon Township School works in coordination with the CCISD and REMC1. The CCISD applies for e-rate funding (USF) annually. In addition, the CCISD coordinates programs and grants such as Title Programs, Eisenhower funds, Gifted and Talented, Early-On, Head Start, Even Start, Math/Science Center, Perkins, Durant, School to Work, Technology Literacy Fund, (etc.) We purchase most equipment, software and supplies from the REMC Cooperative Acquisitions Program to make purchasing technology and services efficient and cost effective.

### **MONITORING AND EVALUATION**

Arvon Township School currently uses M-STEP standardized tests, DIBELS and AIMS Web as part of a formal testing program to evaluate the progress of students in comparison to state and national standards. Arvon Township School will also continue to assess district performance benchmarks with assessments designed by curriculum materials and by individual teachers. With the small size of our student population, we are able to closely look at test scores and statistics for each individual student. The teaching staff will conduct an annual M-STEP test item analysis review to identify curriculum areas to be improved upon.

Reviewing test scores and discussing student progress with the classroom teacher and parent(s) also accomplish continuous assessment of student progress and achievement. The teacher receives a copy of all test outcomes and Arvon recommendations. Parents receive copies of all test scores and are encouraged to contact teachers on concerns or questions. Students who qualify are entitled to special services in the Title I and/or At Risk Program.

### **Alternative Assessments**

For the purpose of the School Improvement Plan, alternative assessments are defined as non-formal tests. Many school improvement plans use only M-STEP and standardized test scores to demonstrate student growth. Alternative assessments will be used as additional measures of the school improvement goals. Some examples of alternative assessments that may be used include:

***Exhibits*** - Students research a topic and prepare an exhibit to display what they have learned.

Power Points, Art shows, Models, Concept maps, Posters,  
Dioramas, Graphics displays, Bulletin boards, Collages,  
Audio/video tapes, Ad campaigns, Science Fair

***Performances*** - Students participate in a show of multiple talents for peers, parents, or other classrooms

### ***Journals and Logs***

***Portfolios*** – The portfolio is a collection of sample work throughout the year to show improvement of writing, problem solving and artistic ability from the beginning of the year to the end. Ideally, the portfolio will be continued in one book from Kindergarten through 6<sup>th</sup> grade to show progress from year to year.

### ***Rubric Checklists***

***Graphic Organizers*** - Students use visual formats to gather, analyze, and evaluate information.

***Projects*** - Students construct and create meaningful long-term projects

Technology exists in schools to benefit students. If student achievement increases, then technology has achieved its purpose. Achievement will be assessed through the M-STEP, DIBELS and AIMS Web to evaluate the progress of



students in comparison to state standards. Evaluation is an ongoing process. Student performance is evaluated every day and the results are used to adjust teaching methods. Although our special education students are serviced through L'Anse or Baraga, achievement can also be seen as at-risk students move closer to their goals of learning independently.

Arvon Township School will also systematically evaluate technology needs and progress towards goals on a regular basis as follows:

1. In June, staff will assess its needs. Professional Development and needed software and hardware will be determined from that assessment.
2. During the year the District will introduce new goals, technologies, policies and professional development.
3. In June, the staff will evaluate the achievement of that year's goals.
4. These results will be shared with the Technology Committee.
5. The Technology Team will meet annually to assess progress and learn about new technologies.
6. Once a year, the Technology Team will invite community, staff, students and parents to evaluate the attainment of the District's technology goals through the end of the year survey.

The METS will be fully integrated into Arvon Township School's curriculum development and School Improvement processes. As unmet goals are identified teachers will find supports and strategies to fill those needs.

## **Acceptable Use Policy**

Strategies are in place to monitor the district's Acceptable Use Plan for staff and student use of the technologies. An Acceptable Use of Technology Policy (AUP) for the district is included. The AUP recognizes existing federal requirements for Internet Safety (The Children's Internet Protection Act). In compliance with C.I.P.A. Arvon Township School has installed a filter, to provide internet filtering to prevent access to visually inappropriate material.

Last edited: June 2015