

Technology

The journey of the WBR Technology Department has been filled with excitement, learning experiences, and success. The adventure began many years ago when computers were first introduced into the classroom. As educational technology began to take hold in the classroom, WBR knew that they would have to address this ever-changing world and its constantly evolving technological innovations. WBR has moved from the one computer on a cart that was wheeled from classroom to classroom to a one-to-one environment that allows students in grades 4-12 to take devices home daily. Additionally, students are exploring distant lands through virtual reality, taking field trips around the globe, building and competing with robotics, and many more challenges and adventures. Technology has helped to knock down the walls of the classroom and has opened student experiences up to countless opportunities.

WBR understood that it was essential for their teachers to “buy-in” to the many opportunities that technology could provide as a tool in the classroom. They started out with small groups of teachers and worked with them to provide their students with learning experiences that were enhanced by the use of technology. This unending stride for knowledge and ways to make learning more relevant for their students has led to a huge influx of technology into their daily lessons.

As technology evolves, so does the WBR Technology Department. In 2014, they began their journey to put Chromebooks into the hands of their students. Since that time, through the commitment of the School Board and additional COVID federal funding, the district is now a one-to-one Chromebook district with all students having access to a device from Head Start to 12th grade.

In addition to their one-to-one environment, the technology team works with teachers to help build

curriculum content with a variety of technology tools. Their students utilize interactive whiteboards, 3D printers, robotics for coding, and virtual and augmented reality devices to name a few. They continue to grow, adjust, and change as the times change.

As their adventure continues and their story grows, they have shared the good, the bad, and the ugly with colleagues around the state and country. The WBR Technology Team and many of their WBR educators have presented at state and national conferences, as well as conducted regional events to share their constantly changing journey. As a result, other school systems and educators have taken notice of the district’s extensive use of technology.

With an increased use of technology within their classrooms, it is imperative to have a dependable network and WiFi access as well as working equipment. In order to adjust to the ever-changing needs of our district, the WBR Technology team has tapped into their very own students to begin working in the department to assist with repairs and maintenance. During the summer months and throughout the year, they have a group of student workers who go into classrooms to provide maintenance and support to their teachers. They are proud to have many of their current and former students continuing to be a constant presence in WBR.

Their journey, their adventure, or their story will never end. In order to keep growing and to remain relevant, it is important that they keep evolving. The technology world is constantly evolving, so as a result, so is the WBR Technology Department. One thing they are committed to is the continued growth of technology within their district to benefit their students and teachers. After all, they are here for their students. The students are our future, and they have a responsibility to provide them with the best education possible as they prepare them for an unknown future that will certainly be full of technological advancements.

