

# Computer Education Program

## 7-12 Statement of Philosophy

At this stage in the new century, computer instruction is vitally important for all students so that they may develop the computer skills this technological world demands. The digital divide, a separation of those who have computer skills from those who do not, stems from the situation of who has access to computers so he or she may learn and who does not have access. The school serves as a place where all students, regardless of race, culture and socioeconomic background have access to computers and therefore have the opportunity to learn the new literacy skills necessary for survival and success in the twenty-first century. As such, schools play a significant role in breaking down the digital divide.

## 7-12 General Learning Goals

The student will:

- Demonstrate a mastery of the computer concepts associated with each given course through assessment tools created specifically for that course. These may include assessment of student products, oral and written communication skills, and demonstrations of troubleshooting, and problem solving skills.
- Express him/herself creatively by applying computer skills to projects that allow for individual choice and focus.
- Demonstrate responsible use of technology, especially given that students in these courses typically have more access to applications and parts of the computer.
- Develop troubleshooting skills to computer problems through critical analysis and creative problem solving.
- Work cooperatively in small groups in situations ranging from a group writing a program to working on repairing a computer or building a web page.
- Understand the effects of the digital divide and work to overcome that individually and for the community.
- Participate in community service projects including assisting teachers with computer related problems, working on the school web site, working on computer networking projects in the community.
- Learn to value multiple points of view in order to inform and synthesize their world perspective.
- Learn to use the Internet for independent research and for connecting to the computer related workforce worldwide.