

# Avoca West

Glenview, Illinois



## About Us

 472 Students

 84 Faculty

K-5 Public School

[avoca37.org](http://avoca37.org)

## Today

More than fifteen years ago, Avoca West Elementary adopted laptops at 4th and 5th grade. Over time the program was expanded to add laptops at grade 3 and classroom sets of iPad devices at K-2. With an emphasis on integration throughout the curriculum, personnel and infrastructure increases occurred to support the program.

As the focus for students shifted to content creation, a 1:1 iPad program was piloted in second grade. The success led to a multi-year adoption plan of iPad devices in grades 2-5 — though the pandemic accelerated the roll-out timeline and necessitated expansion to all grade levels.

With the recent adoption of a [new mission statement](#), a [portrait of a graduate](#), and [strategic plan](#), we continue to see our technology as an invaluable tool to “Inspire curiosity, cultivate academic growth, and nurture diversity.”

## Vision

At Avoca West, we believe that we empower future-ready, global-minded, passionate learners when we:

- Transform learning through innovation, creativity, and critical thinking.
- Engage in responsible and appropriate collaboration and communication within and beyond the Avoca community.

Our shared vision, documented in our [Technology Innovation Plan](#), came from a year of collaboration with administration, staff, students, parents, and our board with the goal of creating a clear roadmap for our program.

By identifying shared goals, listing the steps to make it happen, and creating clear measures of success, we balanced accountability while remaining flexible enough to stay innovative as well as adapt to change.



## Apple Products and Services

Student Technology 

Teacher Technology 

Classroom Technology  
Apple TV, Apple School Manager, and Apple Classroom

We have been a part of the Apple Distinguished School Program since 2011



## Links

[Technology Innovation Plan 2017-2021](#)  
[Approved Strategic Plan - May 2022](#)

## Learning

Embracing technology tools gives students the opportunity to share what they have learned in authentic ways. For teachers, it makes implementing student focused strategies, like differentiation and personalized learning, manageable. From real world projects to digital skills, Avoca, through our Technology Innovation Plan, has worked to implement intentional change combined with reflection.

### Optimize Investments in Technology

- Expanded our device initiative so that all grades K-5 are 1:1 with iPad
- Transitioned our student devices from laptop to iPad

### Explore New Opportunities

- Piloted a new format for our technology classes which embedded digital literacy into the regular schedule, tying classroom content to technology skills
- Students participated in lessons beyond the classroom through virtual field trips and interviews with experts, classroom collaborations with schools throughout the country, and by helping collect money and materials to build a library in Vietnam

### Enhance Instructional Practices

- Increased computer science experiences
- Implemented mobile media centers including recording studios with sound boxes & microphones for podcasts and green screens & iPad stands for movie production
- Interactive books, enhanced by combining apps, turned student writing into multimedia experiences
- Layered concerts, made it possible for our orchestra to “play” together during the pandemic

### Prepare and Support Implementation

- Adopted a professional development model that allowed for collaboration and coaching supports with an Integration Specialist
- Educated parents through trainings helping them understand the school issued technology
- Implemented an intensive 1:1 rollout plan for the adoption of new devices

## Success

Since the pandemic began, our teacher’s skill capacity has increased substantially so that the fear of implementing technology is no longer a barrier. This has opened the door to teachers taking risks and trying new things. And while it may not always go as planned, our willingness to acknowledge challenges provides an opportunity for us to learn what to do the next time.

With measures of success clearly laid out in our Technology Innovation Plan, we continue to check in with our community to ensure we are identifying areas of growth.

## → What’s Next

Our district is adopting a next strategic plan. We will be exploring opportunities for student advocacy, civic involvement, community service, and participation in school governance. Over the next three years, across grades K-8, we will refocus on building staff and student digital literacy, develop an articulated scope and sequence of STEM skills, and update our digital citizenship curriculum. Using Apple technology as a conduit, we will cultivate inclusive learning content that is equitable and diverse regardless of economics, race, gender, culture, & language.

95%

OF STUDENTS

felt that technology made it easier to manage assignments and projects.

93%

OF TEACHERS

felt their tech skills had improved over the last three years.

92%

OF PARENTS

rated the effectiveness of the technology during the pandemic as good or better.