

Marie Murphy

Wilmette, Illinois



About Us

 270 Students

 52 Faculty

6-8 Public School

avoca37.org



Apple Products & Services

Student Technology 

Teacher Technology  

Classroom Technology:
Apple TV, Apple School Manager, Apple Classroom

We have been a part of the Apple Distinguished School Program since 2007



Today

Over fifteen years ago, the Avoca School District launched a 1:1 laptop program for middle school students. The vision was technology integration & accessibility at the point of instruction. Since that initial adoption, Avoca has increased integration throughout the curriculum, updated both personnel and infrastructure, deployed Apple TV in all learning spaces and transitioned from a 1:1 laptop program to putting iPad devices into the hands of all students.

With the recent adoption of a new mission statement, a “portrait of a graduate” profile, & strategic plan, we continue to see our technology as an invaluable tool to inspire curiosity, cultivate academic growth, & nurture diversity. (Avoca School District Mission Statement, Adopted May 2022)

Vision

At Marie Murphy, we believe that we empower future-ready, global-minded, passionate learners when we:

- Transform learning through innovation, creativity, & critical thinking
- Engage in responsible & appropriate collaboration & communication within & 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 adapt to change.

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 & 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.

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
- A digital citizenship curriculum was developed & implemented by our staff

Enhance Instructional Practices

- Implemented mobile media centers including: recording studios with sound boxes & microphones for podcasts and green screens & iPad stands for movie production
- iMacs in the music lab utilize GarageBand for original compositions & individualized guitar instruction
- During the pandemic, Flipgrid made it possible for our orchestra to “play” together via layered concerts while the spring play pivoted to a Zoom performance

Prepare & Support Implementation

- Adopted a professional development model that allowed for collaboration & 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 transition from MacBook to iPad

Optimize Investments in Technology

- Expanded our device initiative so that all grades K-8 are 1:1
- Added additional apps to support curricular goals

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 & 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.

Links

[Technology Innovation Plan 2017-2021](#)

[Approved Strategic Plan - May 2022](#)

What’s Next

Avoca School District is adopting a new strategic plan. We will be exploring opportunities for student advocacy, civic involvement, community service, & participation in school governance. Over the next three years, across grades K-8, we will refocus on building both staff & student digital literacy, develop an articulated scope & sequence of STEM skills, & 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.

86%

of students felt Avoca Tech prepared them for High School

88%

of students felt that technology makes it easier to grasp difficult concepts

95%

of students felt that technology makes it easier to manage assignments and projects