

Technology Usage at Oblock

Library: Desktops and Laptop Cart

Currently the library has 8 desktop computers and a cart of 30 laptops. In addition to the 7th grade reading and 8th grade English classes that come to the library to take AR tests every two weeks, the library is utilized by an average of 1500 students per month. These students are taking additional AR tests, searching for books via the online Destiny program, and completing work for other classes. In addition, this laptop cart is used in the library by students for the research paper required by the English classes. Students will be instructed on how to search for reference materials available in the Oblock library in addition to learning how to search for appropriate internet sources. This cart is connected wirelessly to a printer located in the library. This enables students to print their work.

Mobile Labs:

Oblock has three other mobile carts. One is dedicated for the Math department, which among other projects, is used for Study Island. The Algebra classes will be using the computer carts to take the Algebra 1 Keystone Exam in May. To prepare for this exam, they also take quarterly exams administered on the computers as well.

The other two carts travel between teachers and classrooms. A sign-up calendar is maintained in the library. On average, five different teachers use one of the carts each month.

Students in English classes use them to type essays and complete their research project. Also they are used for finding research sources and Moodle forums.

For Reading Skills, the computer cart is used for Study Island.

For French I and Exploring French, the cart is utilized for creating French Menus(in French), Clothing Catalogs (in French), Hotel Brochures (in French), and typing one-paragraph essays in French.

The Social Studies department uses include: research, utilizing the online textbook, current events and homework. For the first time in school history, we were able to have a computerized Presidential election. The Social Studies Department divided the computers on the cart so that each class would have three to four laptops. Each student from A.E. Oblock Junior High was able to register and secretly vote. We were able to get a total number on the votes for the President and Vice President. We were also able to generate statistics on each grade level from 7-12 on age, sex and grade to see who voted for which candidate.

Reading teachers also use Study Island. In addition, the laptops are used for interactive lessons and Moodle lessons. PSSA writing preparation, typing writing prompts, and investigating non-fiction articles in preparation for reading more non-fiction work required for the Keystone tests.

Science teachers use it for activities such as Webquests, SciLinks, and Virtual Labs. 8th grade science computer uses:

- Creating Excel charts and graphs with experimental data
- Virtual labs and simulations (teacher created, on-line & CD ROM from textbook company)
- Various web based activities (Critterquest.com , fossweb.com etc.
- StudyIsland.com (PSSA prep)
- Flashcardmachine.com via Moodle for unit tests

Science teachers have the year broken up into 12 units and have at least one technology based activity integrated into each unit. However, since the mobile labs are rarely available, they are only able to do a few of these activities a year.

The Technology Education Department use the computer cart for eight days or so to use Google SketchUp to design their house.

Students in 8th grade Art use the lap tops to research a specific artist and style, they turn the research into a power point. All information required is found on a website that we created which includes a paperless rubric. Once the power point is created the students present the research to the class. Students also incorporate videos and interactive virtual tours into the presentations. Students also use Google SketchUp to create 3-D architecture projects.