Implementing Technology in the Delivery of Education
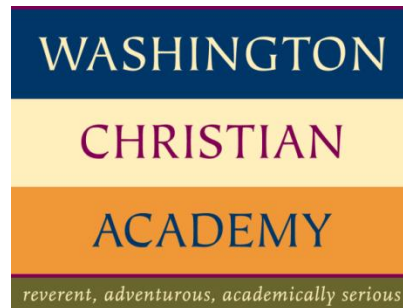# A Plan for WCA

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Project Description: There is no lack of devices, programs, resources, instructional materials, and websites that promote the use of technology in education. And, as has been true ever since the first calculator was introduced into a classroom, there is significant debate concerning the benefits of teaching with technology. Though our school has been using various forms of technology through the years, to my knowledge (and certainly not within the past nine years) there hasn't been an intentional investigation of technology trends and potential benefits. At the same time, as WCA's resources have been limited, so has our implementation of technology. We do have computers for every faculty member, projectors in most classrooms, and a handful of students taking online courses, but that is about the extent. My project's goal was to develop a future plan for the use of technology in WCA's delivery of education.

Project Summary: One of the main initiatives WCA undertook this year was the development of a strategic plan. The information gained from the various phases of the work toward this plan provided important information for my project. The results of the parent and faculty surveys showed that both the faculty and the families saw that technology in education was a current weakness of WCA and that it should be an important priority for the future. Of the four focus groups convened for the strategic plan, the one devoted to the educational program included an emphasis on discussing technology. Through this, I gathered other ideas, thoughts, and concerns from the community. Finally, the set of initiatives and goals developed for our plan included two items that highlight our need to pursue technology.

I also did some research by reading two books, interviewing my Van Lunen consultant, and visiting a nearby school. The information I gathered from these exercises provided a wealth of helpful principles to follow and pitfalls to avoid. The books, "Getting Smart" by Tom Vander Ark and "Disrupting Class" by Clayton Christensen, gave me a great picture of the current landscape of opportunities and benefits that technology can bring to the education process. The conversation and case-study provided many practical ideas and warnings about proceeding with this type of project.

What I Learned:
- Parents and faculty agree that we need to improve and that it should be a high priority.
- Five years is too far ahead to look – start with two to three and build from there.
- Don't doom your technology project to failure by short-cutting important foundation pieces such as training, parent education, and infrastructure.
- It's a complex arena and can be overwhelming – look for current areas of success and build on them.

What is Different: As my project involved a plan, the main difference is how my thinking changed and was improved. The plan we will be executing, and resulting implementation of technology, will make a greater impact and avoid crippling pitfalls.