Archbishop Edward A. McCarthy High School

Location
Southwest Ranches, Florida

Introduction
Archbishop Edward A. McCarthy High School is a Roman Catholic co-educational college preparatory school for students in grades 9 to 12, fully accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools and recognized as one of the Top 50 Catholic High Schools in the nation. Our 48-acre campus provides a safe, structured environment with an emphasis on faith, family, and education. Archbishop McCarthy’s strong commitment to academic and technological excellence is reinforced by our 1:1 iPad program, our state of the art facilities, and our college preparatory curriculum designed to engender an inquisitiveness and excitement for the lifelong process of learning.

www.mccarthyhigh.org
1. **Shared Leadership**—School leaders take collective ownership of the initiative.

2. **Individual Leadership**—A credible and inspirational thought leader sets and articulates the vision.

3. **Community Engagement**—Broad community sponsorship supports the institution’s initiatives.

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**Visionary Leadership**

**Shared Leadership**

The Technology Team at Archbishop McCarthy collaborates with and helps guide faculty and staff in our commitment to improved student learning through technology. The goal of becoming 21st century learners is shared by everyone as evidenced by the teamwork and the staff’s willingness to learn, and then teach, the skills necessary to increase student achievement. This emphasis on technology integration is led by Richard Jean (Principal), Joseph Morano (Director of Technology), Leslie Brown (21st Century Instruction and Learning Coordinator), Ingrid Mayne (iPad Coordinator), and Camille Henderson (Media Specialist). This team helped to create and continues to foster the culture of learning through technology that exists throughout the school. Professional development provided by the team is an integral part of the shared learning climate.

**Individual Leadership**

Richard Jean became principal of Archbishop McCarthy in 2010 and promptly put into action his vision of adopting innovative technologies for student learning. He announced the start of a 1:1 iPad Program at the school’s Open House for prospective students his first year at Archbishop McCarthy. This announcement yielded the largest freshman class in the school’s history and an even larger freshman class the following year. The school became the first in South Florida to use the iPad daily as a teaching and learning tool.
In 2012, the iPad program grew from 700 to over 1400 iPads for students, faculty, and staff. 55” flat screen televisions were installed and Apple TV made available in all classrooms and the media center. The widespread use of the iPad has allowed everyone to become mobile and helped foster teaching and learning methods that enable students to be actively engaged, work collaboratively, and be more creative. The school’s media center is now the iLounge, providing comfortable seating and a place to gather, share and create. The iPad is also being used to manage the school’s security camera system and to provide immediate access to faculty/staff through its telephone capabilities.

Looking towards the future, Mr. Jean plans to build an “open classroom” space for flexible and independent learning for the 2013/2014 school year.

Community Engagement

The entire community of Archbishop McCarthy shares the vision for learning through technology. This acceptance validates the school’s efforts to continue enhancing the learning experience. All stakeholders have been involved in this endeavor. Student enthusiasm and motivation led to fundraising for the flat screen televisions and parents donated the funds for the Apple TV devices. The school’s business partners acknowledge and support our efforts through sponsorship of the various technology conferences held at McCarthy and led by our technology team. In the spirit of sharing knowledge, professional development opportunities have been extended to other schools in the community allowing teachers to come see the iPad in use, share ideas and best practices, and learn how to use the iPad with their own students. The school has been and will continue to be a pioneer in the use of the iPad to enhance learning for all students.
Innovative Learning and Teaching

1. **Student Learning**—Learning is a personal experience for every student.

2. **Instructional Practices**—Faculty are master learners who expertly guide their students through difficult and complex tasks.

3. **Curriculum Design**—Innovative and rigorous curriculum is designed to leverage technology.

**Student Learning**

“Learning is a personal experience for every student.”

Archbishop McCarthy students currently access and download their assignments, activities, readings, project directions, and grading rubrics online via the iPad/iTunes U/Edline 24 hours a day, seven days a week. As a result, they are able to keep up with coursework, even if they are unable to attend a particular class.
Students may also choose to use such access to work at a faster pace or supplement course material via iTunes U and the Khan Academy as their schedules permit.

Students have the flexibility of submitting papers/projects and accessing grades and instructor comments from anywhere their iPads can connect to the internet through the use of Google docs and Turnitin.com.

The research experience is also becoming more personalized at Archbishop McCarthy as students use the iPad to access a far greater variety of online sources and databases than previously available – inside and outside the classroom.

Students now leverage a wide variety of audio-visual apps on the iPad to design projects and presentations that more clearly reflect their personal creativity and growing technological expertise.

Video chat applications facilitate international discussions, awareness and understanding between McCarthy students and their peers around the world.

Students provide more constructive and interactive feedback in the classroom through the use of blogging and interactive discussion facilitated by Apple TV and iPad connectivity.

Students are able to leverage supplemental applications through the iPad to tailor their construction of knowledge to individual needs.
Instructional Practices

“Faculty are master learners who expertly guide their students through difficult and complex tasks.”

Instructors are leveraging the iPad/Apple TV and other technology to guide students through a variety of difficult and complex tasks:

- Free Response/Essay writing workshops
- Primary source/literature/informational text analysis
- Document-based question analysis & response
- Student teaching/flipped classroom
- Research papers/projects in every field
- Debate research, argumentation development, and performance
- Research based simulations

Curriculum Design

“Innovative and rigorous curriculum is designed to leverage technology.”

Archbishop McCarthy is shifting toward a more student-centered curriculum deeply rooted in skills-development training. By leveraging iPad, Apple TV, and internet technology, students now access information more efficiently, freeing up valuable time for more skills-based, creative instruction. Ultimately, such will enable Archbishop McCarthy to effectively prepare its students for technologies, problems, and jobs that do not yet exist.
Ongoing Professional Learning

 Relevant and Timely Professional Development

The faculty at Archbishop McCarthy is committed to becoming 21st Century learners. The introduction of an iPad program has changed our perspective from professional development to professional learning fueled by personal learning communities supported by deliberate and voluntary learning.

On August 15, 2011, four Apple Trainers were present for the iPad initial launch with faculty and staff. The teachers and administrators were led through the basic functions of the iPad. Richard Jean, Principal, said, “Just play around with the device and see what you think about the iPad”. The participants began to explore the iPad and voluntarily began to share their insights, questions, solutions, and difficulties. The collaboration, learning, and support that initially occurred are the foundation of our professional development model today. Exploration, collaboration, and support drive the evolution of our technology culture and learning community. There is a supportive culture for seekers, risk takers, inquirers, helpers, and learners.

Six months after the initial launch, Mr. Jean officially announced that we would be embarking on a 1:1 iPad program. Collaborating with the team from Apple, professional development immediately started. Teachers and administrators recognize Apple’s Professional Development Team as a guide, mentor, coach, and an invaluable resource. In July of 2012, a 21st Century Instruction and Learning Coordinator was hired to
facilitate technology integration across the curriculum and school culture. Three levels of 21st Century skills and applications were created. The three levels are the criteria for evaluation of teachers’ learning and implementation of technology. These three levels also provide a rubric for scaffolding professional development. The levels provide a formal structure for professional learning, but within our learning community the informal structure has proven invaluable as well.

Here are the ways in which our community continues to learn:

**Formal**

- **Apple Subject Area Workshops**: Share apps and pedagogy
- **Blog**: Used to introduce the community to apps, tutorials, and insights
- **S.E.A.L T.E.A.M. 4**: Sharing Educational Applications for Learners Technology Team formulated to vet apps and guide teachers’ learning
- **Department Meetings**: Subject area teachers meet specifically to discuss apps and pedagogy
- **Twitter & Flipboard**: Used to aggregate RSS feeds for PLN
- **Professional Development Days**: Collaborative assessment and planning among faculty and administrators; Tech team to determine a plan of action for learning
- **21st Century Learning Lab**: Equipped with three iMacs and one MacBook Pro, and a green screen for creative exploration, authoring, video production, creating tutorials, strategic planning, podcasting, creating and assembling assets

**Informal**

- **App Workshops & Curriculum implementation strategies**: Apple PD Team & 21st Century Instruction and Learning Coordinator
- **“Appy Hour”**: Discussion of apps during lunch period
- **“Tech Time-outs”**: Campus Ministry organized workshops for teachers experiencing difficulties with technology
- **Reverse Mentoring**: Students teaching teachers about apps
- **Drop-ins**: Teachers drop in anytime of the school day to speak with the 21st Century Instruction and Learning Coordinator
Compelling Evidence of Success

1. **Quantitative**—Data is routinely collected and analyzed to inform progress and success.

2. **Qualitative**—Narrative, reflective, or anecdotal evidence is collected and shared.

**Quantitative**

Substantial financial savings and student/faculty surveys validate the successful integration of the iPad program.

**Financial savings:**

Printing savings by using the iPad for Student Agendas, Parent/Student Handbook, Curriculum Guide, Faculty Handbook and newsletter - **$13,385.00 savings in one year**

Digital Content and Supplies/Apps -
**$207,289.83 savings in one year**
Student survey shows the percentage of students that agree/strongly agree with the statements below:

96% - The iPad has helped adapt the way I learn to fit my personal learning style.

95% - The iPad allows me to be more creative in the way I approach assignments.

95% - The iPad helps me communicate more effectively with teachers and peers.

90% - My ability to share and collaborate with peers has improved with the iPad.

85% - The iPad has improved my organizational skills.

88% - The iPad allows instant and constant access to the resources needed for learning.
Faculty survey shows the percentage of teachers that agree/strongly agree with the statements below:

94% - The iPad has helped students become more organized.

94% - The iPad facilitates student learning by accommodating multiple learning styles.

90% - The iPad facilitates greater collaboration among my peers.

87% - The students are more engaged and active participants in learning with the iPads.

79% - The quality of student work has improved and is more creative.
Qualitative

Students responded to the following open-ended question: How has the iPad affected your learning?

“I especially like the fact that I can finish my assignments and even submit them just with my iPad.”

“It has changed the way I study, read, and learn altogether, and I love it.”

“I was absent for four days and I could stay on task by doing my homework and learning online.”

“The use of the iPad has helped me a lot in school, mostly because it puts the vast expanse of information on the Internet at my fingertips.”

“It allows me to collaborate with my friends so I can ask them for help if I need it when I’m home.”

Faculty members from various disciplines responded to the following open-ended question: How has Apple technology most benefitted you and/or your students in the classroom?

“I am not just a lecturer anymore. I am a facilitator, a learner, an innovator, and most of all a more effective educator.”

“Apple technology has helped to create a virtual classroom within my brick and mortar classroom.”

“Students who are absent or need extra review have the ability to watch or re-watch a class that was recorded.”

“There is a greater willingness for students to participate in classroom discussions through blogs and social media.”

“Apple technology is a convenient way to bring in ‘guest speakers’ to my class.”
Flexible Learning Environment

1. **School Design and Facilities**—Facilities and schedules are designed to maximize learning opportunities that technology provides.

2. **Information Technology (IT)**—IT infrastructure supports innovation in teaching and learning.

School Design and Facilities

Learning at Archbishop Edward A. McCarthy is not restricted to the traditional classroom or to the typical school hours; learning occurs anytime and anywhere. Time on task for students is maximized due to the accessibility provided by the iPad. There is minimal congestion in the hallways and no more scrambling for locker access as students depend on their iPads more and their lockers less. Every student and teacher is given a Google Apps for Education account where students and teachers communicate, give and turn in assignments, access schedules, notes, books, grades, email and data, and collaborate on a variety of learning tasks. Archbishop McCarthy has extended its digital pedagogical influence on the school culture as a whole; technology and education are entwined.
It is not uncommon to see students filming mock political candidate interviews in the hallway with their iPads or hear them exchanging their impressions of a Shakespearean sonnet on the classroom televisions. Students and teachers display the daily classroom sessions in 55” LCD flat-screen televisions wirelessly through the use of Apple TV and the iPad, involving everyone in the learning environment. Daily lessons are often archived on the school's learning management systems for anytime accessibility. Twenty-four hour a day communication among students, parents and teachers is facilitated through a variety of software programs, ensuring that students have the tools to be successful in and out of the classroom.

Teachers find themselves in the iLounge captivated by the same inspirations the students gain from the atmosphere created by the sofas and coffeehouse-styled furniture. Those budding inspirations are channeled into the 21st century learning environment where they become the next reality for the students. Thus begins the learning life cycle for teachers and students alike.

**Information Technology (IT)**

The IT infrastructure at Archbishop McCarthy supports innovation in learning supported by a technology rich culture. The school is currently equipped with over 1500 iPads. Our Mac Lab with twenty-eight iMacs and our two touch screen HP labs offer the latest in software and functionality for everyone from the gamer to the graphic web designer. The school boasts secure Wi-Fi network access campus-wide on a 100 MB fiber optic service. Our 108 digital HD Camera Security System allows security staff to use the iPad to monitor the school campus from anywhere there is Wi-Fi connection. With the use of an application, the iPad allows access to faculty and staff through its telephone capabilities.

The Technology Team provides technical support for students and staff on all hardware, software, apps, networks and equipment. The Technology Ambassadors are students that assist the team in providing support. The school help desk is located in the iLounge and can be accessed by anyone before, during and after school.
The school liaison and the following people are willing and able to address these areas.

1. Visionary Leadership
   **Mr. Richard P. Jean**  
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2. Innovative Learning and Teaching
   **Mr. Patrick Sandoe**  
   *Social Studies Chairperson*  
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3. Relevant and Timely Professional Development
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4. Compelling Evidence of Success
   **Mr. Robert Siccone**  
   *Assistant Principal*  
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5. Flexible Learning Environment
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