

Twenty-First Century Learning at Krimmel Intermediate School

When Krimmel Intermediate School opened in August 2007, students entered a new phase of instruction in the Klein ISD: each was issued a laptop computer. Teachers remain the key element of instruction at Krimmel, but technology has changed the way students learn.

Krimmel is the first large campus in Klein to be equipped for one-to-one computer use. The funds for Klein's technology plan were approved by voters as part of the 2004 Bond. A plan for districtwide one-to-one computers began with Vistas High School Program and will progress through the intermediate and high school levels. The plan will allow teachers to be trained prior to implementation at a school.

"Improved teaching and learning are at the heart of the Klein ISD technology plan," said Ms. Judy Rimato, the KISD executive director of facilities. "By implementing teaching and learning strategies that incorporate 21st century tools, context, and content, allows the district to meet its first technology goal."

Ms. Ann McMullan, executive director of educational technology, added, "The glue that holds Klein's technology

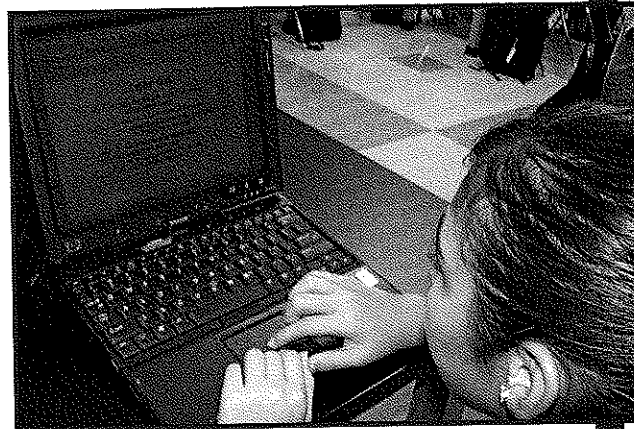
plan together is its recognized program of professional development. The philosophy in Klein has always been to move from teaching technology to using technology to teach." To ensure that Krimmel teachers are skilled in knowing how to use one-to-one teaching strategies, they participated during the summer in professional development training, and training continues to be provided.

In the Classrooms

In Krimmel classes, students are turned-on to their new learning opportunities. Examples of how the computers are being used in three subject areas are as follows:

- ***Fine Arts - A digital tool enhances creativity***

In music classrooms, teachers use the computers for building skills in music theory, melodic and rhythmic dictation, and reading music at sight (sight reading). In theatre arts, students research and develop scripts and use recording devices for presentation and evaluation. In the visual arts classroom, students learn the basics of creating digital images.



- ***Pre-Advanced Placement Classes - A digital tool enhances higher level learning***

Pre-AP is about students collaborating, discovering the answers instead of the teacher providing them, and working with open-ended projects. Having the tablets allows the students to choose which program will work best for them and their final product and to use the Internet without having to be in a computer lab.

- ***Social Studies - A digital tool enhances differentiation in one class with one teacher***

Teachers can differentiate information provided to students and offer different interactive assessments based on student academic achievement levels. Maps can be "painted" on the computer so that more time can be spent in learning rather than coloring.

