

Putting Lakota's levy promises into action over the last few years has been a rewarding thing to witness.

With some commitments, you could see the impact on public display almost immediately. At first, more than 2,400 additional students gained transportation to and from school – a number we've since multiplied, thanks to a string of operational efficiencies in other areas. The transformation of half our schools' entrances for added safety and security was a relatively quick and noticeable change, too.

Other promises, like enhancing instructional technology, have been evolving more inside our schools.

While technology is part of our students' learning every day, Lakota expanded February's Digital Learning Day – a national celebration of technology's application to student learning – to a week-long event. Almost 600 Lakota teachers shared exciting applications of technology in their classrooms. This included activities like students digitally collaborating with their teachers and one another on assignments. Some integrated newer technology, allowing younger classes to work with older classes through video conferencing, for example.

Supporting many of these activities is Lakota's new learning management system. This online platform allows teachers to provide expanded content and collaboration opportunities that directly support modern learning and student skill development for life after Lakota.

Leading this work is a dedicated team of digital learning specialists. This team supports teachers in purposefully integrating new tools to maximize student learning. The team models modern lessons and provides ongoing professional development to help keep Lakota's instruction aligned with national standards.

A couple weeks ago, Lakota had a unique opportunity to share with the local business community just a taste of what Lakota students – and their future workforce – are now experiencing in the classroom. The opportunity came in the form of a "Trivia Night," a new addition to the West Chester Liberty Chamber Alliance's Annual Celebration. Using iPads on loan from Lakota, tables worked together to tackle trivia questions tied to the evening's theme, the 20-year anniversary of the Union Centre Boulevard interchange.

They used one of the tools that many Lakota teachers use to not only personalize learning, but also to make learning fun and interactive. The activity put on display just one example of how instructional technology has been introduced into Lakota's learning environments.

Three years into implementation, Lakota has introduced thousands of modern devices along with several industry-leading applications to enhance classroom learning. The district also added a technology special at the elementary grade levels to support the early development of safe technology usage and application.

But even before these more tangible things came to fruition, a whole series of infrastructure building was happening behind the scenes. The first year was filled with milestones like increased wireless and Internet capacity, new network routers, and even a new optic cabling system. These were all building blocks for a solid foundation on which we could sustain a long-range plan that accounts for continuously changing technology.

Every day, our teachers are digitally enhancing student learning. We have our community to thank for the opportunity to support instructional excellence in such modern ways.

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