YEAR IN REVIEW
2016 - 2017
Welcome:
To the 2016-2017 Year-in-Review. This has been an exciting year of growth and achievement. We have many things to celebrate, none of which would have been possible without the continued support of the WCCS Board of School Trustees, the central office and building level administration, the teachers and support staff, the parents, our community and last but certainly not least, our students. Each of the groups named above played a significant role in improving our present, while simultaneously shaping our future. Thank you for your involvement, your feedback, and your continued push for excellence.

Sincerely,

Jacob R. Hoag
Executive Director of Innovation & Construction Liaison
Factors impacting our results include: leadership that encourages risk taking; policies that support innovation; funding that provides the necessary tools and resources; professional development that is long term, sustained, and job embedded; a robust infrastructure that is capable of supporting a blended learning environment; and a curriculum that grounds technology use in the principles of great teaching.
From the very beginning we felt strongly that our success would hinge upon the leadership ability of our building level principals. In order to assist at the building level, we created the “teacher leader” position. These leaders worked alongside the building principals to deliver professional development and to support staff and students.
TEACHER LEADERS
A robust infrastructure capable of supporting a blended learning environment is critical to our success. As we introduced more devices and engaged in more and more online activities, our need for additional bandwidth has grown. The technology expansion that our elementary students will bring leaves us anticipating that this trend for additional bandwidth will continue.
Access to resources is a crucial step in the change process. Without adequate resources, change is severely limited. As a result, we have increased the number of devices available for staff and student use each year. From the beginning, we pledged that increases in technology would not result in an increase in textbook rental fees. Starting with the 2017-2018 school year, students in grades 2-12 will have 1:1 access to technology while students in grades K-1 will have a 3:1 student:device ratio. This has all been accomplished without increasing the amount parents pay for textbook rental fees.
In order to increase communication, 2016-2017 saw the release of a new website and the WCCS mobile app. The new website is available on your desktop, laptop, or on the go from your smart phone or tablet. The WCCS mobile app is available for download from iTunes or Google Play. The app delivers real time school news to your smart phone for fast, up-to-date access. With the app you can: get the latest district and school news, select the schools you want to follow, get push notifications about breaking news, closures, weather, events, and more. You can also see the latest photos from school events, tap to see phone numbers and staff information, and view student grades, library activity, lunch account balances, and transportation information.
During the 2016-2017 school year we formalized many of our social media policies. Part of this plan included Social Media Training for all staff members. In addition, we began using social media as a communication tool for parents, students, and community members by launching Friends of WCCS on Facebook and Twitter.