

### **Desktop Systems**

We have revisited Lab210 in the Skills Center to resolve multiple issues with the computers in that room. The dependencies of that computer classroom continue to increase as RCI expands their computer based needs, and now the Transition Center is taking an interest. Thanks to Joe Tarasovitch and Frank Diplacido we believe we have some good strategies to help minimize future issues.

We have continued our research into a Windows 7 64-bit computing platform for our faculty and our labs. With every major operating system upgrade, come a lot of challenges that most often aren't realized until after implementation. We are doing our due diligence to minimize the unknowns because we strongly believe the transition to Windows 7 Ultimate 64-bit (only) will be a significant asset in for our digital classrooms and professional development goals of using video for faculty and student collaboration and documentation.

Many of our faculty has taken an interest in peripheral devices and gadgets to extend their abilities with their student computers, laptops and projectors. We helped purchase and install many of these devices to support our faculty. Devices like wireless presenters (hand held mice), drawing pads, and other interactive devices.

### **Network and Server Systems**

Two Wireless Access Points failed, and had to be replaced. We investigated making the investment in "N" technology for the replacements; but the options still remain limited in the budget market. We corresponded with Xirrus, SonicWall, D-Link and Aruba networks to consider their offerings in starting a phased migration to "N" technology, but the costs are of a caliber that don't fit into what we budgeted for this year.

We had an offer from a Pittsburgh Service provider to review our telephone system; and offer recommendations at zero cost. We entertained them for a day and shared with them aspects of our phone system and opportunities we feel we're missing. I really enjoyed the visit, the conversation, the technical expertise, and their overall recommendations.

### **Technology Integration**

We researched VisualThesaurus.com at the request of Phylis Theuerkauf for its word relationship mapping tool. It's a very interactive and engaging application this is likely a valuable compliment to our literacy and vocabulary strategies, so we have pitched a site license to that committee for their consideration.

### **Staff Development**

Thanks to our Faculty and our Principal Joe T. for continuing to allot time to explore the possibilities of technology with them. We had two great sessions this month. We're now getting past the hardware, the concepts, and the basics so we can start discussing how to do more. Our digital classroom concept has brought projectors and laptops to our availability every day. Tether that with the amount of content available, it can seem overwhelming and difficult. We hope to encourage the confidence in capitalizing on the information and rich content to transition that into reliable and functional classroom lessons for our now 'digital age' students.