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CDS SIP Review

My school's mission was revised and re-implemented within the past two years. It reads, "The Country Day School, a U.S. -accredited college preparatory school serving an international community, inspires a passion for learning and provides children with the skills, values, and courage to become responsible leaders in their communities and the world".

Our biggest areas for improvement, or our two action plans, directly deal with improving our math and language arts departments and student achievement. The plans are huge and encompass everything from increased enrollment in AP level courses to improving the questions we ask potential employees during interviews.

Technology is addressed in the SIP very briefly. It is mentioned that CDS must improve technology use and write a technology plan, but there aren't specific goals or benchmarks. Thereby, technology literacy is not mentioned at all. This suggested technology plan has not been written, and I think this is a huge area for improvement. And I can't say I am very pleased to find that there aren't concrete goals for technology use or literacy.

On a side note, one area that the school has undertaken (that isn't in the SIP) is the adoption of a new website. This adoption has provided great opportunity for me to take on leadership roles with introducing teachers to the new website and training others.

In future SIPs I would love to see plans for tech. literacy, digital citizenship, and effective use in the classroom. I think this is a very reasonable goal, and I will be talking with my mentor about this for our future improvement plans. I think that we could direct our teachers to more effective use, make our standards more clear, and set a collectively developed vision.

I think our mission to prepare our students to be global citizens, leaders, and prepared for college is all highly supported through effective and ethical technology use. Global citizenship and leadership is most easily taught through the use of the Internet. We also have a set of beliefs that also make the effective use of technology essential. Among the major beliefs, the one that I feel technology improvement would most directly impact is, "Students learn most effectively when provided opportunities for exploration, critical thinking, collaboration, and problem-solving within authentic situations."

My school doesn't currently have a technology plan. We have had a technology coordinator in place for just over 3 years. This position, in the past, has been generally undirected, separate from other professionals in the tech. department, and usually was preoccupied with various other projects around school. Within the past year, with the appointment of a new technology coordinator and the reorganization of the tech. department, technology integration and instruction has changed drastically. The new coordinator is in charge of the entire tech. department, a tech. coach, and all of the technology teachers in the school. He has made a push for effective use, equitable access, and a unified staff. The

improvements have been huge, but he is currently in the process of writing a technology plan.