1:1 Technology at Campolindo High School

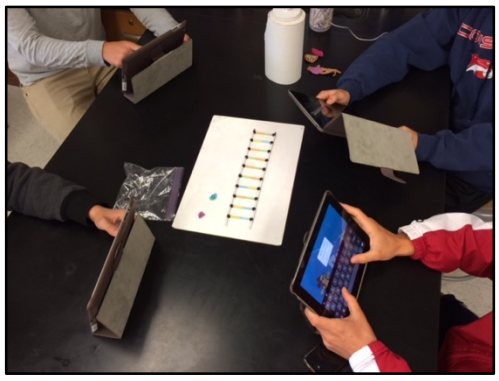
Colleen O'Brien

"Campolindo High School is excited about our growing 1:1 technology program. By infusing 21st century technology into our courses, we are helping students build the academic and collaborative skills necessary for college and career. MEF has been a tremendous partner as we continue to expand the 1:1 program." ***John Walker, Principal, Campolindo High School***

Campolindo's 1:1 technology program, which is funded by MEF, is allowing teachers to leverage technology to enrich students' learning in ways that were previously unavailable.

Science teacher Jay Chugh's biology students are issued MEF-funded iPads from the school, which they are permitted to bring home to continue classwork. Chugh uses this platform for a variety of hands-on projects that bring class content to life.

"Typically," said Chugh, "I like to use the iPad for projects that involve creativity, meaning they would use the device to build skills they need to succeed in college and, more importantly, as a part of their career." One particularly popular example assignment is stop-motion animation, made famous by movies such as Wallace and Gromit and Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer. "I tell the students that they have to film a process frame by frame, and, in biology, that would be something like mitosis or how DNA is decoded to become a protein," Chugh explained. "They have to label the key structures, they have to sometimes tell a story of what's going on, maybe narrate in the video as well. Then when they periodically hit play, then they can see their work as a stop motion video, and it comes to life."



So do these technology-based strategies really improve learning? Chugh's empirical evidence suggests they do. "I teach science, so I like evidence, I like data. I can take a look at my students'

test scores before I start doing stop-motion for that topic versus after and it's about an 8 to 10 percent increase in the test scores. This makes sense because it's more memorable, it's more project-based, it's more hands-on, and they understand the process better because they're seeing it frame-by-frame."

However, Chugh is conscientious about limiting technology use unless it is offering something unavailable on paper. He cites students' regular recreational use of technology a major reason he uses technology sparingly in the classroom. "I try to only use it if it's going to make the learning better," Chugh asserted. "Otherwise, I don't use it."

While creativity and enhanced learning are a huge benefit, students are also expanding their organizational skills through 1:1 technology. History teacher Lisa Herzig's classes are now essentially paperless. At the beginning of the year, each student was given the options of using a MEF-funded a Chromebook to complete a variety of assignments. In addition to richer, more memorable content, the students also benefit by staying more organized.

After a few months of using the Chromebooks and technology for teaching Herzig notes, "It's really nice to really get into the richness of a visual document where students can zoom, get to know a visual, and really describe what's happening in an image in color. If you're reproducing 150 copies of something, it gets lost. Based on student feedback, I think the ability for students to do something online, manage everything and keep it organized has been really helpful."

These are just a couple of examples of your MEF donations supporting 21st century learning in the classroom. Through the continued support of MEF, Campolindo's students will gain the skills and knowledge to be successful in the 21st century workforce.