

21st Century Schools Initiative

Jefferson Parish Public Schools lead Louisiana in implementing interactive classroom technology.

Dr. Diane Roussel

Once you get people to realize their moral responsibility to children, then the messages become, "What should the role of the teacher be? What should the role of technology be?" And what are the outcomes that we want?" One of the biggest accomplishments is we all understand and embrace where we're going. Every message, every meeting I have, I'm talking curriculum and I'm talking technology. Because those are the two most important functions in this school system.

Richard Carpenter

We owe our students the best, every single day — whether it's the first period on Monday, or the last period on Friday. And that entails really examining what's going on in their lives, so that we can make the educational experience as relevant to their lives as possible.

Dr. Mable Moore

The first day I came into the Jefferson Parish School District, the superintendent, I knew exactly where she wanted the district to go. She was knowledgeable about technology. And she knew that technology integration, as well as the work that the district had been working on with Schlecty and The Center for School Reform, would allow us to get there.

Ronnie Sloan

What I see is the tone being set by the superintendent, and even by the school board as a governing body. Leadership with integrity, leadership that has the vision to bring our students up to a level that is expected, not only in the business community, but in the community as a whole, because that's what creates good citizens.

Beth Wren

It's very important to have folks that are asking the hard questions, and that aren't satisfied with the status quo. Visionary leaders who communicate their vision confidently and consistently, each and every day, constantly saying, "You know, we did that okay but it could be better."

Dr. Diane Roussel

Katrina came and I tell people we had to rise from the ashes. The images that you saw were real here. And we had an opportunity then to just decide to rebuild ourselves the way we were, or now to seize the opportunity to rethink it. What is it that we really want the school system to be and to look like?

Denise Carpenter

We're really addressing the students, through the chosen mode of communication, through the technology that Cisco has afforded us.

Dr. Diane Roussel

The Schlecty Center Design Qualities really dovetail perfectly with technological tools that Cisco has brought into our school system.

Dr. Mary Almerico

It's just been phenomenal. The technology has been reaching the schools, the individual schools, and the individual classrooms, and the individual teachers. And as that has gone out, the excitement grows and the kids, they want it, and they can do it, and it makes them love learning.

Dr. Diane Roussel

It draws them into places they could never ever go before, and experiences they never could have. What we see is acceleration that we could not achieve with standard teaching methods, without the technology that we're employing. It has been the force that keeps children in from recess. They don't want to go. Keeps them in from lunch — that is remarkable, if you've seen it. Not only does it do your heart good, it does your soul good to see what can happen. And that you are, truly, effecting change in their lives.

Dr. Etta Licciardi

The kids already have it. The kids already know it. It's the adults who need to catch up with the kids. Because the adults are catching up with the way kids are entertaining themselves and the way they're communicating. We brought everyone into the same circle of communication and mode of learning. And by adding this technology, it completes the link.

Denise Carpenter

It's just wonderful seeing the transformation, not only for the students, but for the teachers. Really getting them to embrace the technology and realize that it doesn't supplant them as a teacher, it just really enhances their lessons, enhances what they're doing, and brings the students into another level of engagement and application that really supports the students and helps them become the best students that they can be, so that they can be productive citizens in our society.

Colleen Winkler

I've been teaching for a long time. I'm from the old school, but I find myself very excited about education. I find that excitement carrying over into the classroom to the students. And when I'm excited, they're excited. And it's building this community of learners that possibly would not have happened, or evolved, had we not had the technology.

Simone Duhon

Many of our students have never touched a computer before they walked into our school. But that starts from our Pre-K Program, at four years old. They're using computers in the classroom. They have a Promethean Board. And it's so exciting for me when I visit the classrooms and see these itty-bitty children, just manipulating the tools on that Promethean Board, and they know exactly what to do.

Sacorre Grinstead

I like it because the Promethean Boards make learning more fun. And it's easier to do work and things.

Ryan Bonnette

We get to show all the PowerPoints that we do on them. And instead of just having group work and it's not individual, everybody gets to work together, and it's fun.

Rachel McReynolds

When my daughter will come home and mention something interesting that they've done in class and, "Oh, come look at my blog," or "Come, come look at this," it's really encouraging to see her excited about what she needs to do.

Female Teacher

It used to be that when school was over the lights were turned off. But with these students, with our students, the lights are never turned off. They go home and their learning continues.

Ronnie Sloan

I see in the students, I see in the teachers, I see in the principals the hope and their joy of what technology is bringing to the table for them, and I see it on a daily basis.

Dr. Mable Moore

We will have provided, by the end of this year, multimedia access to over 3000 classrooms. So Jefferson Parish is well on its way to becoming a 21st century school district.

Dr. Diane Roussel

You have to believe it can be done, convince others it can be done, and work shoulder to shoulder with them to get it done. That is leadership. Believe it, convince others, and work with them. It's a new way of teaching and learning. And we owe it to our kids to do it this way.

© 2009 Cisco Systems, Inc. All rights reserved.