

Liberty Academy
Departmental Analysis
Computer Technology
Laird Roberts

1. How are the department's curriculum and instructional strategies aligned with the schools desired results for student learning?

The Computer Technology classes are project based and, utilize "constructionist" learning strategies. The instruction content is multi-discipline. Project utile and create material in coordination with other classes.

For example, in the Computer Tech. Class students created five to ten minute videos on another subject they were studying, such as history, speech and debate, and art. Working in groups the students researched their subjects, wrote scripts that required learning some basic word processing and writing skills as well as proper script format. They were then required to create a shot list for their video using a spreadsheet program.

In addition to learning to make the video, which involve learning the aspects of taping material and capturing audio, the student also had to learn group organizational skills, scheduling, working with individuals outside the group, and editing skills, using Adobe's Premier editing program. A major requirement was that every group member had to be involved in all aspects of the project.

2. How does each course offering align with the state's Core Curriculum, which prescribes content and course specific intended learning outcomes?

Every class in the Computer Technology department is based on state Core Curriculum requirements and goes beyond them, providing a core knowledge that would be required in a professional setting and in college class or trade school classes.

For example, the photography class taught the state's core requirements: knowledge of the effect photographs have in marketing, the basics of taking a photograph, and understanding of the elements of texture and shape in photography. The class also covered the basic physics involved in the creations of a photograph, an introduction into the history of photography, the elements of required for a good photography, composition, quality of light, basic lighting, sharpness, and the basics of digital photography, including a base knowledge of Adobe Photoshop.

3. To what extent does the department utilize a variety of assessments to monitor student achievement and adjust instructional practices?

Students are give an assessment exam on the first day of class and this followed up with similar exams three to four weeks in order gauge learning. A final test is compared with the beginning test measure how much the students learned.

Learning is also measure by the quality of the work the students produce over the course of the class. Observation, especially with group work, also plays an important role in assessing learning and ability to work in groups. Students are encouraged to take responsibility for each other's participation in the group.

4. How does the department collaborate with other departments to create integrated, relevant and authentic learning opportunities for students?

While there are frequent formal meetings and instruction probably the most effective cooperative effort comes from frequent informal discussions that take place between teachers. For example, Utah History teacher, Mr. Winget and I discussed how my computer technology students could create videos that would help them understand Utah History. Science Teacher, Mrs. Lowe helped my design the curriculum for an upcoming class I'll be teaching on web design.

5. To what extent do department members utilize exclusionary teaching strategies to meets the needs of All students (ESL, special education, gifted, etc.

Besides formal discussions and classes on teaching strategies for special needs students teachers and counselors frequently how they can meet the needs of individual students. For example, English teacher, Mr. Carroll and I regularly discuss how we can help several students in our class who have behavior problems. As a result we changed the curriculum in a class to better meet the abilities of these students.

6. To what degree are the department's policies, operational procedures, and allocation and use of resources aligned with the educational agenda of the school?

The school advocates individualized education for each student. As much as is possible curriculum and assignments are adapted to the needs of individual students. For example, a recent final exam in my photography class was changed to meet the needs of several students who were struggling with the material the test covered. Students were also given individual and group tutoring to help them retain what they were learning.

7. How does the department collaborate and engage in ongoing professional development growth for the purpose of improving student performance?

I participate in all educational classes provided by the school for the teaching staff and frequently discuss with both staff and teachers educational methods that might better meet the needs of students. I also am constantly research both educational methods and technological advances that might improving learning in my area.

8. How do students have access to additional support beyond the classroom?

Students attend and cover for the yearbook many of the field trips offered students in the school, such as a recent field trip to Space Camp.

9. How do students have access to and utilize technology as a regular part of instructional programs?

Students are encouraged to utilize the vast of amount of educational materials available on the Internet. For example, students who have free time are allowed to use computers to access programs such as Kahn Academy and Vocabulary.Com. Students in my class frequently use computers for research and video and photographic projects.

10. How does current staffing and certification meet current program needs?

I have a Master degree in secondary education and will be taking classes to improve current certification requirements?

11. How is the department collectively addressing the school's current school improvement goals?

I participate in all offered group discussions, projects and classes offered by the school.