

# NEWPORT INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS

## FOSTERING AN INNOVATIVE LEARNING CULTURE



Newport Independent Schools have been focused on bringing 21<sup>st</sup> Century tools, devices, and instructional programs to students. This began with implementing a 1:1 iPad initiative at NHS in 2014 and has continued to expand resulting with students in grades K-8 having an iPad and all students in grades 9-12 having a MacBook laptop. Technology is crucial to assisting organizations in becoming innovative but it's just not about having the devices, it's about how they are utilized. Currently, plans are being made to utilize our technology more effectively so that it will help to create innovative learning cultures in all of our schools.

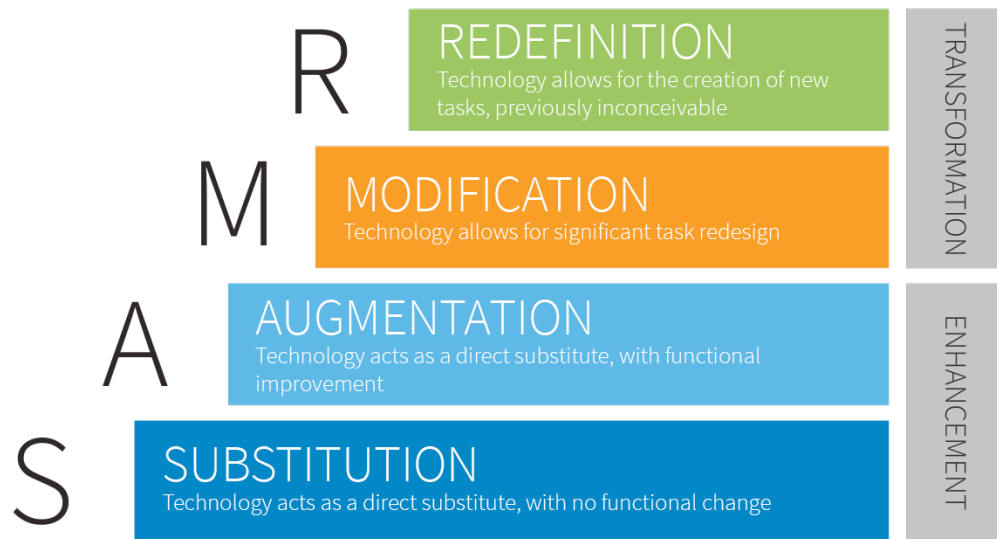
### **Strategies to Foster an Innovative Learning Culture**

In order to foster innovative learning cultures, all stakeholders must change their way of thinking and focus on concepts, processes, & potential outcomes. Our classrooms need to focus on real world application of ideas & technologies to make things new & create better things. In order to foster environments for this to occur, these strategies are planned:

- **Create a Shared Vision**
  - District & school leaders will be working together this summer to create a shared vision of what innovation will look like in Newport Schools.
  - Leaders will be collaborating with an Apple Curriculum Executive to lead the discussion, push everyone's thinking toward innovation, & guide the development of the long-term vision.
- **Creating Meaningful Learning Experiences for Teachers**
  - An Instructional Technology Committee has been developed consisting of district leaders, school leaders, & teacher leaders. Members have been participating in a book study focused on "*The Innovator's Mindset*". Along with discussion & activities with the book study, the members will be attending the ISTE Conference this summer to expand their knowledge. Next year, the members will be responsible for planning & implementing professional learning experiences in their schools.
  - All teachers will be participating in Apple Professional Learning on the June 5 PLC Day. The training will focus on strategies to help them expand the usage of their devices through learning about coding, virtual reality, movie making apps like Clips, Garageband, Apple Classroom, & Apple TV.
  - All teachers have been invited to participate in Google Level 1 training. The first session was offered during spring break and 44 teachers took advantage of this opportunity. The future sessions will be held on June 7-8 and October 8-9. The training sessions focus on how to utilize all of the Google Apps. Following these trainings, teachers will complete an on-line assessment to become a Google Level 1 Educator. In addition to training teachers, secretaries & classified staff will participate in training on June 5 to learn how to use Google Apps that relate to their job duties.
  - Teachers are being invited to complete the on-line self-paced training to become an Apple Certified Educator. This process helps teachers to learn more about all of the Apple resources that are installed on their devices.
- **Moving Beyond Substitution**
  - Through effective use of our technology devices, students will be working on more innovative projects & products. Apple products are focused on creativity & development of digital content.

Through effective professional learning, intentional lesson planning in PLCs, & monitoring through classroom walkthroughs, students should be moving beyond using their devices for substitution activities.

- The SAMR model includes:



- The following graphic provides an example of application of the SAMR model with examples at each stage:

### Understanding SAMR via Starbucks



#### SUBSTITUTION

Consider a cup of coffee that you make at home as the original, "non-digital" product. So you go to Starbucks and order a cup of coffee. You have SUBSTITUTED the cup of coffee at home for a cup of coffee at Starbucks. Nothing changes. Cup of coffee for a cup of coffee.



#### AUGMENTATION

Suppose instead of a simple cup of coffee, you want Starbucks to do something to it. Maybe add cream, sugar, and some ice to the coffee. And a straw. It is still basically a cup of coffee, but now it is AUGMENTED. We have taken that basic cup of coffee and added some things to it, but we still basically have a cup of coffee.



#### MODIFICATION

Now we want Starbucks to do something to that coffee that we could probably do, but would be more difficult than just making a cup of coffee. So we order an iced Caramel Macchiato, which we COULD make at home if we really tried but it is probably a lot easier for Starbucks to make it. They have MODIFIED the original coffee with their own flavors, syrups, and whipped cream. Truly a modified coffee.



#### REDEFINITION

Finally, we want to get a drink that can ONLY be purchased at Starbucks. They will totally REDEFINE the coffee into a Pumpkin Spiced Latte. Only Starbucks makes it that way. They even have a trademark on the recipe. This is something that could not exist without Starbucks.

- The goal of our 1:1 initiative would be to move beyond the substitution level and have our students complete projects that involve modification & redefinition. This process will take time & intentionality from all district & school leaders but will greatly improve our learning cultures.
- **Enhancing Classroom Technology**
  - As technology advances, the technologies, such as projectors & Smartboards that teachers use in our classrooms are becoming hard to maintain due to age. Plans are in place to begin replacing some of the oldest technologies in our classrooms with new interactive panels. These panels will allow for easier connectivity, increased student engagement, & better workflow within the classrooms.
  - Another device that teachers will have installed in their classrooms is an Apple TV. This will allow teachers & students to connect wireless to the projector/panel to enhance classroom productivity & collaboration.
- **Innovative Programs for Students**
  - Newport began implementing Project Lead the Way, PLTW, in August 2016. Each year, the high school Biomedical Science pathway has expanded to include a new course. In 2018-2019, the third course in the pathway will begin. Future plans are being made to continue expanding PLTW in all schools. This program provides students with authentic opportunities to be problem solvers, critical thinkers, and innovators.
  - In Spring 2018, a teacher from each school piloted Project Based Learning, PBL. In August 2018, we will expand this initiative to include teachers from grades 2-12. PBL is a program that focuses on providing students with opportunities to solve problems in their own communities or problems that relate to their own lives. PBLs result in student presenting their solutions in innovative ways to authentic audiences.

Our goal is to create a vision that will guide the further development of a plan that can foster innovative learning cultures in all Newport schools. George Couros, the author of *“The Innovator’s Mindset”*, says that school communities must provide both students and staff with innovative skills to empower them to learn and freedom to take risks in order to move schools forward.

