

# **The Digital Community at Los Amigos High School**

## **Summary**

This program intends to unify collaborative student activities and multimedia technology. Student teams will create PowerPoint presentations, construct websites and share research experiences. Four classrooms, U.S. History and American Literature (Grade 11), World History and a Survey of Literature Course (Grades 9 and 10), will be presented as confluent courses navigated by the use of a variety of multimedia and communications technologies.

## **Student Population Being Served**

Los Amigos High School currently has a population of 2,090 students. The student body is 67.9% Hispanic, 23.7% Asian, and 5.4% White. There are 1003 students, 48% of our population, who are designated as English Language Learners. There are 1,504 (72%) students who qualify for reduced or free lunches. Scores in English language arts and social science remain relatively flat and have shown little to no growth over the past three years. We recognize the urgent need to upgrade the delivery systems of our curricula and the need of our students to participate in the world of technology both in and out of the classroom.

Approximately 200 students from grades 9-11 will be assigned to the four teachers involved in this program. Approximately 60 at-risk students will be served by this program. At-risk status will be determined by previous grades, STAR-9 (below the 30<sup>th</sup> percentile in English language arts), and CHSEE

(students who have not passed the English language arts test by the start of 11<sup>th</sup> grade) by test results.

### **Problem Statement**

Many of our students and teachers have had limited opportunities to apply the advanced technologies of computers, multimedia, and communications technology. The technology proposed in this project attempts to raise the level of student performance by interfacing curricula in the social sciences and English language arts. There is evidence that shows student growth occurs best in academic areas when students ask questions, research to discover answers, and share information with their peers. Our students will author PowerPoint presentations, build websites, and share technology strategies in order to contribute to the growing fund of knowledge at our school site.

### **Goals and Objectives**

Students will engage in curricula which are collaborative, challenging, and interactive. These students will score higher on standardized tests, stay in school longer, re-align their goals to achieve at higher levels, and raise their own expectations and those of their peers. Since we at Los Amigos are committed to creating self-disciplined individuals and academic achievers, we believe the sharing, transferring, evaluating, and discovering of new ways by which the standards can be met will raise the STAR scores, the results on the CHSEE, district benchmark, and school site department unit exams of the students enrolled in this program.

## **Activities**

Student teams, heterogeneous in ability, will meet state standards by working with technology that is interactive and multimedia oriented. They will create PowerPoint presentations, video montages, and build websites that explore historical and literary problems. Students will be encouraged to develop creative solutions to these problems using a variety of research sources and methods. They will share their results with fellow students in classroom presentations and throughout the school via the internet. Student assignments will be reciprocal and cross-curricular. All students will collaborate with high-performing and at-risk peers in and outside of their assigned classrooms. Internet technology will be used to facilitate collaboration.

## **Timeline**

1. By January 31, 2005, all student teams will create and present a multimedia PowerPoint presentation that addresses a state standard in both history/social science and English language arts.
2. By March 31, 2006, all student teams will create and present a multimedia PowerPoint presentation that addresses a state standard in both history/social science and English language arts. This presentation will also include a "Ken Burns style" video short using still photos and student readings of key documents or literary works.
3. By June 10, 2006, all student teams will create a portion of the project's website using elements of the PowerPoint presentations created during the year. Metacognitive writing will be prominent throughout the web.

pages. This website will be published and presented to school's staff and student body through a technology fair hosted by the Digital Community at Los Amigos in June of 2006.

### **Professional Development**

The teachers in the Digital Community will work with district technology and curriculum specialists. They attend district technology in-services and will offer strategies to colleagues through staff meetings, learning walks, and teacher in-service days.

### **Evaluation**

Since our program is standards-based, we expect to see results in the areas of the STAR-9 test, the CHSEE, and the department unit exams. By offering similar strategies to colleagues through staff training, learning walks, and teacher in-service days, we believe the API of the school will slowly increase as will the number of students passing the CHSEE. The teachers in this program will be able to monitor success in the areas of writing, comprehension, research techniques, and the English language arts and social science standards by frequent electronic assessments, standardized tests, and comparative analysis of student-generated work.