

Case Study – Local Technology Plan  
Recommendations

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Bethlehem Christian Academy  
Orange Village, Ohio

By  
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Planning for Technology 800  
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## **Planning Team**

Bethlehem Christian Academy, Technology Planning Team consists of the Pastor, Donald Morris, Principal, Christina Warner, and six Teachers.

Currently none of the Board Members or Parents has been invited on the team. It is important for Parents, Community Members, and Local Business Owners to become part of the team for several reasons:

- 1) Parents are Stakeholders, whom have a great interest in their children's education. Involving parents in the process is a strategy for vested interest. Parents will work their hardest to make sure the planning for technology will be a success. A lot of parents have withdrawn their children for next school year because the school hasn't made an effort to provide technological experiences for the children. By involving them as part of the technology committee, they are reassured that the school is making steps to integrate technology into the school and classrooms.

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2) Community Members will offer support within the community. They can advocate and promote the schools efforts before the political bodies within the community. I have asked the Principal to talk with the local library about the E-Rate. There may be a way that the school qualifies through the public library. The Principal believes there is no support for BCA because it is a religious school, however, there may be a way to work through the library if the school uses the library services for borrowing books and resources. The library will also be able to offer its expertise of databases and Internet sites and resources available to help the students increase their reading aptitudes.

3) Local Businesses know what skills are necessary in the “real world” for success. By building a relationship with local businesses, the school may gain financial support of these businesses. Local businesses will bring a different perspective to the table. Businesses know finances and can offer solutions for managing a budget for technology.

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### **Curriculum Alignment & Instructional Integration**

It is a good idea to use the ISTE NETS Standards to align with Christian based curriculum guidelines, but the school should also make sure there is nothing lacking in their curriculum by comparing it to the State of Ohio and Core Curriculum Standards. I'm confident that the school Administrators already to a comparison because they assure me that the students do well on the Standardized tests.

### **Technology Policy, Leadership and Administration**

Currently there is no Technology Policy, Leadership, or Administration for technology due to lack of funding. This is an area for grant writing. The school will need someone who is capable of bringing the whole committee together to work the vision and plan for technology.

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## **Technology Infrastructure Management and Support**

Though the Pastor feels he is tech-savvy enough to support the technology network and computers and equipment, he is busy being the Pastor of a church and school. From my observation, he doesn't have a lot of free time to manage a network. The school should consider either a year to year contract with Golden Construction and Remodeling after the installation of the wireless network, or seek another company for technology support and service. Contracting outside of the school for technology support and service is a cost savings in comparison to hiring someone full-time. The school may need to write a grant for support.

## **Budget & Planning**

A three year budget plan should be a part of the operations of the school. If the school adapts a budget plan that Stakeholders may see, it will be easier for all to support. People need to see you have a plan to understand what the needs are and how the needs may be supported, even when you aren't

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a public school. A budget plan is also necessary for applying for grant funding.

I have shared my recommendations with the Principal and Pastor of BCA. Both have agreed with my recommendations and I am still waiting on their decisions and actions. I feel a sense of urgency, while they contemplate on these issues they are losing students.