

# Canterbury School is Winning the Ed Tech Battle

By Kyle Cebull and Nicole Allbritton

Positioning itself as a leader in educational technology, Canterbury School is transforming the way students and teachers learn and teach inside and outside of the classroom.

While some “older” methods of learning are still in use (i.e. desktop computers and dry erase boards), as a Pre-K-12 independent school, Canterbury is pursuing a technological plan that inspires innovative teaching and learning in “an academic environment focused on inquiry-based learning.”

Canterbury’s recently hired Director of Innovation, Katrina Keene, hand-in-hand with IT partner, Entech, are working together to transform the school’s learning landscape, both physically and mentally.

“Katrina will help us innovate in the way we teach, the way we communicate and the way we utilize our technology for the benefit of the entire Canterbury community. I have no doubt that she will transform the technological landscape on

our campus,” said Tony Paulus, Head of School.

Serving as Canterbury’s technology partner since 2010, Jake Spanberger, President of Entech, and his team have worked to implement a strategy that led to the complete transformation of Canterbury’s technological environment.

Some of the changes seen include the integration of iPads and Apple TVs in most classrooms, replacing desktop computers with laptops, campus-wide wireless network and the launch of “The Cougar Den,” an active learning environment in the middle school designed for collaboration using smart boards, media centers and mobile workspaces for students.

“We have an advanced technology infrastructure at Canterbury, along with a strong desire from the faculty and staff to integrate technology into the curriculum,” said Spanberger.

In promoting Canterbury’s mission

and vision of academic excellence through the technology plan, the school envisions a future that allows technology to be used “to prompt and encourage cross-disciplinary efforts in inquiry, instruction and design, and better prepares our students for both college and the 21<sup>st</sup> century,” said Paulus.

In an effort to ensure its success, Canterbury set strategic goals designed to enhance and evolve the educational experience. Some of these include equipping Canterbury with state-of-the-art technology resources; ensure students graduate with an understanding and a proficiency with technology as an educational and productivity tool; provide access to digital tools to facilitate communication and collaboration among and between students and teachers; and expand the curriculum to enable students to develop competencies in computer programming and design.



*Katrina Keene,  
Director of  
Innovation*

*Canterbury’s Middle School “Cougar Den” - an active learning environment for students*



***The media center in the Cougar Den allows for student collaboration and innovation***


“We want to be mindful of the way we are using technology here at Canterbury. At the rate in which technology changes, we are working to remain on the pulse of any new changes. As our students enter college and later, the workforce, we need to make sure that we prepare them so that they enter an environment where technology is not a barrier,” said Keene.

Discussions have already begun regarding the possibility of implementing a BYOD program (Bring Your Own Device). As students become more

accustomed to having a more mobile and hands-on learning experience, the BYOD program would not only make available funds for enhancing teacher devices and “community” spaces used for teaching and learning, but would give students the opportunity to develop the technological skills needed in order to succeed in college and in the professional world.

In addition to the BYOD program, Canterbury’s technology plan includes the potential for providing items such as iPads for Intermediate, Middle and

Upper School teachers to use for App/ mirroring integration in the classroom; new software and computers for video and picture editing; and a “Cougar Den” in the Upper School as an alternative learning and teaching space.

“With these new technology-based implementations and goals, we are essentially learning how to learn and teach. Our students are thinking ahead and our teachers are setting the example by embracing these changes. In preparing these students for the future, technology should not be a hindrance, but instead, an opportunity,” said Keene. 

*Entech is a full service technology solution provider specializing in Managed IT Services for businesses ranging from 20 users to enterprise organizations with hundreds of users. Services include remote Help Desk support, cloud services, IT strategy consulting, network maintenance and management, backup and disaster recovery, business continuity, network security, and budget management. For more information, contact Kyle Cebull at [kyle@entechUS.com](mailto:kyle@entechUS.com) or visit [www.entechUS.com](http://www.entechUS.com).*

*Canterbury School is a Pre-K 3 through grade 12, coeducational, college preparatory school dedicated to academic excellence within a caring and supportive community, emphasizing character, leadership and service. For more information, contact Nicole Allbritton at [nallbritton@canterburyfortmyers.org](mailto:nallbritton@canterburyfortmyers.org) or visit [www.canterburyfortmyers.org](http://www.canterburyfortmyers.org).*

***Other forms of technology are used in the classroom for teaching and learning, including iPads***

