



LABBB is an Educational Collaborative that serves students with special needs from over 60 districts.

[LABBB Website](#)
[LABBB.com](#)

Executive Director's Blog:
[patricbarbieri.wordpress.com](#)

Mission Statement

The LABBB Collaborative helps students with special needs reach their full potential through high quality programs that integrate academic, social, recreational, and vocational services and enable participation in the least restrictive environment.

Defining Our Technology Resources

By Patric Barbieri, Executive Director

Technology has made everything faster, more precise, visually stimulating, creative, fun, motivating, engaging and enhanced our students' ability to access our curriculum more effectively. LABBB has embraced this technology advancement and growth in special education and we have taken an active approach in learning and experimenting with the tools that will give our students the best opportunity to learn and thrive. The challenge is experimenting and exploring the myriad of tools and applications available, as they are being developed at an incredible pace.

As special educators we are trained to differentiate our instruction for each student. We now have many modes of technology to use to engage our students in learning. As more technological tools and apps saturate the educational market, we need to be mindful of the purpose of technology and define how we use technology. There are three approaches to technology categories that we are hearing about today in education. I wanted to give a brief explanation of each of them below and how they

are being used throughout LABBB.

Instructional Technology

Instructional Technology is all of our hardware and software such as computers, and software applications that are loaded onto our computers. It includes touch screens, interactive white boards, Apple TV and other visual hardware that students can access in the classroom.

Instructional technology has also been broadened to include devices such as iPads, iPods, and iPhones or other types of smartphones and touch pads that are being developed. There is some controversy on the use of iPhones or smartphones with students in the use of informational technology, but many schools have made the decision to use them as educational opportunities rather than trying to micromanage these devices in school. There is Instructional technology initiatives that you will soon be hearing about if you haven't already called "1:1" where schools are substituting an iPad or Macbook for textbooks to access curriculum. This 1:1 movement will soon be in every school.

Informational Technology

We are now seeing our schools build new infrastructures to give our students more access to the internet. We still have a long way to go, but the systems that are being put in place are now allowing us to connect almost anywhere. Web 2.0 has really been the driving force to increase connectivity within our schools and communities. Web 2.0 is a significant movement in sharing information across the internet. It also gave us a platform to collaborate online, learn from one another, and create Professional Learning communities. Information technology, to put it simply, is the ability to connect, share, and collaborate with your colleagues. It has made us more productive and efficient. We now have data systems that can store and share information to make our jobs easier. Also included in informational technology are websites and blogs for building lessons. Web 2.0 has also created use of social media platforms such as Twitter and Skype where educators are connecting and sharing curriculum.

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Technology in the Health Office

By LABBB Nurse Staff



In healthcare, there is currently a large push toward increasing the use of technology. New innovations in recordkeeping and care delivery are being integrated into hospitals and healthcare systems. Although the LABBB Health Office is not a hospital, we recognize the benefits of using more technology, and have been trying to do so in the last year. Most of the new-to-us technology we use is web-based. Below are three web applications that we use often.

Gmail:



Millions of people use email, including the health office nurses (p.s. email us at healthoffice@labbb.net with any questions or blog ideas!). We do enjoy using the phone for communication most of the time, but using email is a quick and clear way to communicate. Within our email, which is based in the Google platform, we use Google Drive. In Google Drive, we have a document called "Follow Up" which is very important to us. Not all of the health office nurses work every day, so we type notes about the day's events, paperwork to watch out for, and updates on students in this document. For example, we may type: "M. Mouse is taking a new medication at 10 am" or "D. Duck's doctor is faxing in a form tomorrow". This document has allowed (as

closely as possible) an office with three different nurses working each day operate as if one nurse is working consistently each day.

Pandora Radio:



Like email, Pandora has millions of users including the Health Office nurses. We use Pandora as background music as we work throughout the day. We listen to a wide range of music-country music, dance music, classic rock... we like it all! Sometimes, we use the Pandora classical station while a student is resting in the health office. We have also used the Disney station on Pandora to have sing-a-longs with students who are upset. Using Pandora has certainly put smiles on students' faces!

iHealth - Electronic Recordkeeping:



Recently, we have switched from paper documentation to computerized documentation. The system we use, iHealth, is web-based and is tied into iPass, LABBB's student

database. In iHealth, we keep track of students' physical exams, immunizations, allergies, and medical diagnoses. Keeping track of these things by computer has allowed us to quickly check to see if students are up to date with immunizations and physical exams. As we used to do this by manual chart review, we have saved a lot of time. We also use iHealth to document student visits to the health office. Previously, we filled out a form on paper when a student visited the health office with an injury or illness. In addition to streamlining documentation and recordkeeping, switching to an electronic record allows us to collect data on what we do. Now that we record this information electronically, we can easily collect data on what we do each day. For example, we have been tracking student visits and phone calls weekly this school year. Here is a sample of the data we have collected:

Week of November 11, 2012:

Days in School Week = 4
Visits = 26
Phone calls = 7
Avg. Visit/Day = 6.5
Avg. Phone/Day = 1.8

Later in the school year, we will analyze this data further to see when the busiest days of the week or times of the year are. We are also able to obtain data on how many students visit the office with a certain complaint or concern, and how often students visit the health office.



LABBB Website
LABBB.com

The LABBB Philosophy

The Philosophy of the LABBB Collaborative is to promote the social, cognitive and emotional growth of each child to his or her potential.

“We are Thankful”

By Mrs. Allen, Mrs. Dickson and Ms. Farley, Teachers,
Lexington High School

LABBB Lexington High School students from rooms 821 and 822 (Mrs. Allen, Mrs. Dickson and Ms. Farley's classes) worked on a cross-curricular Thanksgiving writing and video project. First, in Independent Living Skills class, students brainstormed and discussed what it means to be thankful and what they were thankful for. Next, through guided instruction, students filled in the details of a paragraph using the Clicker 6 writing program which provided them with word prediction and auditory features to assist in the writing and editing process. For the final steps,



students were videotaped using the iPad and then the video clips were put into the Pro Show Web iPad app which is an easy way to create a video slideshow. We finished our project by posting the video to our classroom blog to share with family and friends.

Check out our “We are Thankful” video by visiting our classroom blog at:

www.labbb821822.wordpress.com



Kathy Eggers, Teacher at LABBB Lexington High, Using Clicker 6 with Interactive White Board

Last year LABBB started an initiative for implementing Clicker 6, a literacy and writing tool, in our classrooms. We have been doing a significant amount Clicker 6 training for Teachers and Specialists.

Kathy Eggers, Teacher, LABBB Lexington High School, has been a proponent of Clicker 5 for many years and then was very active in utilizing the

new version of Clicker called Clicker 6.

Kathy has a blog and she has shared her use of Clicker 6 using an interactive white board.

To view Kathy using Clicker 6 with her student on an interactive white board, copy and paste this link into your browser or hold the control key on your keyboard while clicking on the link:

<http://eggersclass.wordpress.com/2012/10/15/interactive-board-with-clicker/>

Jen Buxton, LABBB Assistive Tech Consultant has been leading the trainings for Clicker 6. This past fall she had a workshop for Clicker 6 Advanced users and will continue training LABBB staff throughout the year and offer consulting to our classrooms.

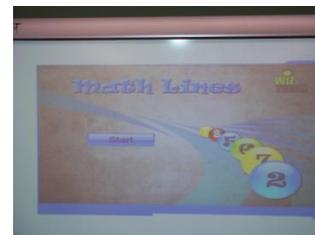


Technology and Curriculum at LABBB Memorial Elementary School

By Linda Bartlett, Teacher, LABBB Memorial Elementary School



One of the wonderful technology resources we have in the LABBB Primary classrooms in Burlington is the Touch-IT board. It provides a variety of meaningful curriculum tools for our students, as well being able to import interactive Boardmaker boards. We use it daily during "Morning Meeting" for our interactive Boardmaker messages. When using the Touch-IT board during "Morning Meeting" students are able to read the message on the board, or tap the pictures to have them speak. It allows us to make a variety of lessons and activities in the classroom multi-modal to meet the many educational needs in our classroom.



In addition to being "Boardmaker-friendly", the Touch-IT board also comes with its own options for interactive educational games. We often play a literacy game called "Word Scramble" and a math game called "Math Lines". Both games are interactive and can increase or decrease in difficulty depending upon the educational level of the students using it. It also has a wonderful interactive map that our students love using when working on geography.



Since it connects to a classroom laptop, we are able to also view educational videos on it using online teaching resources like Discovery or Teacher-Tube. There are also some great musical multiplication videos on You-Tube that the kids love to see when learning their multiplication tables!

The Touch-IT board has been a wonderful technology tool to use in the classroom and we are enjoying all of its many educational benefits daily!



LABBB

Collaborative Programs
Since 1974

LABBB Website

LABBB.com

The LABBB Philosophy

We believe every student is unique and requires a specialized team to meet their needs. Each student has special talents and abilities that must be cultivated in a learning environment.



LABBB Website
LABBB.com

The LABBB Philosophy

The LABBB community has a vision of skill-based instruction that considers the whole student from early childhood to adult living. We proceed by building skills and aptitudes to move towards independence.



Technology at LABBB Arlington High School

By Jeff Caritey, Teacher, LABBB Arlington High School

The use of technology at Arlington High School continues to increase and be implemented in the daily curriculum. The use of projectors has been an effective tool in providing classroom instruction. The visual graphics that we are able to display from a computer to the classroom white boards helps students to attend for longer periods of time. In addition, it provides real world images that the students are able to see when learning about a particular subject. The use of projectors also provides an interactive learning atmosphere for the students.



The use of iPads has also enhanced instruction to students. For several students

we know that the iPads serve as a means of communication. The additional benefits include the many educational, vocational, and recreational applications that support IEP goals and objectives.



Technology Curriculum at LABBB Collaborative

by Donna Goodell, Program Director, LABBB Elementary and Middle Schools

One of our current initiatives at LABBB is to create a continuous technology curriculum beginning in elementary school and extending through high school. This initiative will create an educational environment throughout LABBB that provides students with access to a variety of technology tools as well as the curriculum to learn and develop the skills to use those tools. The resulting skills will benefit students as they move through their education as well as prepare them to enter into the adult world with the tools, skills and knowledge they need to attain the highest level of independence possible.

LABBB is proud to have the knowledge and expertise within our current teaching and related service staff to work toward the development of such a meaningful curriculum for our students. We thank the following staff for their time and participation in this project: Linda Bartlett, Elementary Teacher, Katrina Wright, Middle School Teacher, Melissa Allen and Rebecca Niman, High School Teachers, and Anigone McHugh and Tanya Scott, Speech and Language Pathologists.

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This has significantly changed the way we communicate, connect and collaborate. Many educators are creating Professional Learning Groups using these social media tools and are connecting with other educators around the world. Teachers have been able to learn instructional strategies and develop meaningful professional development by having access to educators who are willing to share their best teaching strategies and curriculum. Sharing the latest apps has been a little overwhelming. As educators, we have been very active and excited about sharing and forwarding our favorite top 100 list of apps. There are many top 100 lists that are circulating! Consistency is the key, finding what works and sticking with it rather than jumping to the next latest and greatest app that goes viral is something we have to eschew, especially when we see in our e-mail subject, "Patric's 1000 top applications for the ipad."

Assistive Technology

Assistive technology has been the most familiar term, but also it has been misunderstood since technology devices have become more pervasive and omnipresent.

Assistive tech is defined as "any" tool or device that can help our students gain access to curriculum and "improve their functional capabilities."

We are seeing so many new devices such as iPads and other touch screen computers, be touted as the panacea for giving our students access to curriculum. These new devices can be great tools in the right hands, with the right training and understanding of how to use them, no question about it. Furthermore, these Assistive tech tools can be used as a voice for a child or have text read to them. We have to keep in mind though that assistive technology is not a device. It is any tool to help children access the curriculum. Assistive tech is broken up in two categories, low tech and high tech. Both are appropriate when considering tools to use with our students. We have to be careful that we do not just jump to the high tech end, when a low tech tool can be more functional for a student. Starting at the low tech end of assistive technology we cannot forget our Lottie kits. The contents in a Lottie kit should be the first step to consider when implementing assistive technology.

This kit includes many low tech assistive technology tools that work extremely well. There is a myriad of options from low tech that should be considered when helping our students access the curriculum. Our goal is to make our students as independent as possible and assistive tech tools can help them have a better quality of life.

Identifying Skills First

New technology is exciting and gives us motivation and inspiration to learn and teach in ways that are much different than we did 5 or 10 years ago. We now have to define a system to teach our students and identify what technologies are working and which ones are not. We cannot forget which comes first in our instructional strategies and IEP development. Our first responsibility is to identify the skills we want to focus on for the student, write goals and objectives, and then identify the technology and assistive tech tools that will be implemented to give a student better access to our curriculum. Many times we are looking at the power of the device first and what it can do for the student. The device should come after the skills are identified. The device is an option, as is any low tech or high

tech assistive technology tool. The world of technology has been exciting and LABBB is taking an approach to implementing technology in the classroom that will provide the most benefit to our students and give them access to the curriculum. Technology will continue to develop and change and we are beginning to create a technology curriculum that meets the needs of our students in today's world!

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We're on the Web!

See us at:

WWW.LABBB.COM

LABBB Core Values

We are committed to quality

Our team at LABBB Collaborative is committed to providing quality programming to each unique child attending our schools.

We value family input

Partnership between home and school is necessary to promote optimum success for a student.

We promote independence

Through innovative practice we aim to foster an environment that enables our students to acquire the necessary skills to lead more independent lives.

We build on our students strengths

Our students have many different talents and abilities. We are invested

in creating and promoting opportunities that will maximize each student's strengths.

We value the contribution of every LABBB employee / team member

Teamwork, communication and respect are essential to building a professional work environment.

Passion for student success fuels our commitment for excellence.

For more information about the LABBB Collaborative Programs please contact us at:

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