

Private Massachusetts School Encourages Self-Driven Technology PD

Bancroft School, a private K-12 school in Worcester, Massachusetts has approximately 100 faculty/staff and 530 students. According to William “Bud” Brooks, the school’s Director of Technology, “Bancroft School has historically maintained a state-of-the-art level of technology with respect to both hardware and software. But, we have a small Technology Department which makes just-in-time PD difficult to deliver.”

The school needed technology training that could work on its own, without the help of the Technology Department staff. And, having this solution available at any time of day was an important factor to fit Bancroft School’s needs.

Bancroft turned to the Atomic Learning online professional development solution. Brooks said “This is key for a school that has a three-person technology department. [With Atomic Learning,] Faculty, staff and students no longer have to wait for a member of the Technology Department to provide training.” Atomic Learning allows Bancroft School to direct students, faculty, staff, and even students’ parents to specific applications and skills to address their technology training needs.

Brooks is also impressed with the tech integration features of Atomic Learning. “The project offerings are invaluable to faculty looking to integrate technology in their curriculum,” he said. “Even though we continue to provide [traditional] professional development for our faculty and staff, sometimes an idea doesn’t register unless it is needed. With the ability to look through the listings of projects on Atomic Learning, faculty and staff can access the projects they want – when they need them.”

Bancroft School has also used Atomic Learning for faculty meetings. The Technology Department assigns a tutorial or series of tutorials to the group so that they are able to complete them on their own time prior to the faculty meeting. This has made the short time the group gathers more impactful. “By assigning videos before the meeting everyone is on the same page to discuss the concept in the short amount of time we have to meet,” Brooks said. “This saves a lot of time and allows our training to maintain a momentum that was hard to do without Atomic Learning as a resource.”

Problem:

Limited resources to provide comprehensive technology training to staff

Solution:

Online, 24/7 access to tech training and classroom projects using technology already available within the school

Outcome:

Self-driven staff technology PD



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Brooks and his team especially like the ability to assign training. "Being able to assign training videos and set a due date for completion helps to keep the user and the trainer on the same schedule."

Teachers and staff at Bancroft School have a wealth of technology at their fingertips, some that they might not even be aware of. "Atomic Learning allows the staff to access training on software that they are currently using and to explore software resident on our computers that they have never used before," Brooks said. "Atomic Learning is always available for staff to use and learn at their own pace."

As a result of the partnership the two have established, Bancroft School has had the quintessential success story with Atomic Learning. According to Brooks, "We have a 7th grade technology class that uses the Atomic Learning projects. This has allowed a non-technical teacher to lead this class, and has allowed the students to learn at their own pace. The students love it and so does the teacher!"

“ Faculty, staff and students no longer have to wait for a member of the Technology Department to provide training. ”

William "Bud" Brooks,
Director of Technology



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