

**Clarence Bee Article – November 2017**  
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## **Technology Integration**

Over the past five years, the Clarence Central School District has invested heavily in technology. We began modestly, setting goals through our technology committee with input from teachers, administrators, students, and community members. Our overarching goal was to successfully integrate instruction and technology, thereby affording students the opportunity to demonstrate more complex levels of learning using digital tools. Fortunately, we were able to tap two sources of funds that allowed us to accelerate meeting our vision for technology, our recently completed capital project and the Smart Schools Bond Act.

As we progressed toward our goals we knew it was critically important to build a state-of-the-art network infrastructure. The most important element was to make sure that the technology was accessible, reliable, and dependable. In other words, we needed the technology to work the way it was supposed to without network connection problems or slow bandwidth. We needed to ensure security while allowing for access on all types of devices, especially mobile computing devices. Funds from the capital project allowed us to create a technology backbone of virtual servers and over 400 high speed wireless access points across our six buildings. Essentially, there is a wireless access point for each classroom space in the district. The comprehensive coverage allows thirty students in any classroom to be connected to the network simultaneously, without any service interruption. Our servers allow students to connect to a virtual environment from any device, desktop computer, mobile computer, or even a smart phone, and work from the standard suite of applications they would find in any plugged-in computer lab, with the servers handling all of the computer processing power. The students can save their digital work to our cloud storage, allowing access from any device at any time.

We've used the Smart Schools Bond Act funds to purchase rolling carts of thirty mobile devices, mostly laptops and Chromebooks at the secondary level and Chromebooks and iPads at the elementary level. As of February, we will have 168 carts deployed across the six buildings with over 5,000 mobile devices available for student use. In addition, our virtual network allowed us to replace all of the computer lab desktops in the district with thin client desktop computers. We have also installed over 400 LCD projectors, essentially one in every classroom, and over 180 document cameras.

Our teachers have embraced the technology tools and they are developing engaging and creative lessons. We are excited about the possibilities the future holds.