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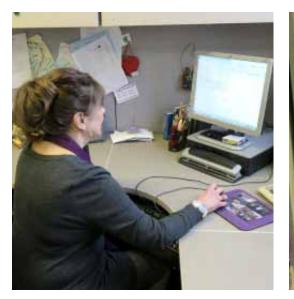
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Prepping for State, BPA director Diane Fickel works at her computer as sophomores Lindsey Moore and Ian McKay work on their Presentation Management project for BPA State. "I use technology constantly during my day in business classes to enhance learning," Fickel said. "It makes my life easier!"

TECH SAVVY

Overheads. Blackboards. Chalk. Remember when all classrooms had these? Not often do you see teachers using chalk or an overhead. Instead, they'll be fumbling around with their Smart Board.

"After using an overhead projector for 22 years, I wasn't too thrilled about having to change to a Smart Board," math teacher Patricia Burger said. "I love it 95 percent of the time because I can already have notes up on the board ... but the other 5 percent I don't like it because it starts to act up, which is very annoying."
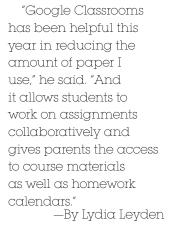
Having students come to the board and manipulate sentences helps them to learn complex sentence structures, Spanish teacher Teresa Bozer said.

"There are days, however, that the Smart Board has a mind of its own," Bozer said. "Last year, my students named my Smart Board 'Picasso' because it wouldn't stay calibrated and turned everything I wrote on it into abstract art."

Color and animation enhance the lesson and keep students interested, according to Kay Nigg, a math teacher.

"We are a visual society, and I am able to demonstrate concepts much easier than if I had an overhead or chalkboard," she said. "The downfall is it is technology and it will break down."

Besides helping the students, the new technology is good for the environment and for parents, computer technology teacher Dominic Audia said.

"Google Classrooms has been helpful this year in reducing the amount of paper I use," he said. "And it allows students to work on assignments collaboratively and gives parents the access to course materials as well as homework calendars."

—By Lydia Leyden

Looking up Spanish words on her phone, Regan Steigleder '17 walks through the courtyard after school Jan. 27. "If I don't know a word, I always use Spanish Dictionary on my phone to help."

TECHNOLOGY TIMES TEN

It's omnipresent, and students often find it hard to disconnect

Introduction to Journalism students Nina Elkadi '18, Connor Zielinski '17 and Kavir Ramos '16 work after school Jan. 27. "Without technology, we would probably have to cut everything out by hand," Elkadi said.

Spell-checking, Kendra and Kiya Law '16 help each other type a research paper seventh hour Feb. 3. "Using the Internet is really handy during school, especially when your sister can help you," Kendra said.

Balancing equations, Cameron Cook '17 uses a graphic calculator to do chemistry homework in the library after school Jan. 29. "I like technology, but it sometimes gets distracting during school."

'Using the Smart Board really helps me and my BPA group when working on our Prezi for State. It gives us a lot of options for layouts and it's easy to use and practice with."
—Lindsey Moore '17

108 Academics

Technology 109

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