

Try Something New This Year!

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A trip to the library's media room to push the dated movie projector down the school hall and attempt to secure the twin film reels on the projector is a far cry from today's reality. Sega, PlayStation I & II, Dream Cast, Xbox, MP3's, digital cameras, mini discs, two-way paging, and online distance learning just touch the surface of technology in the twenty-first century. These commodities are both entertaining and useful, but what place does technology have in Adventist classrooms?

In an era where children are encouraged at a young age to become familiar with computers and other available technology, it becomes very difficult to use traditional methods of teaching. Teaching has become increasingly challenging since educators now have to compete with the fast pace of technology.

Integration is a word that has a vast history in the North American school system. Since the establishment of the first school, there have been thousands of new ideas, philosophies, and materials that have shaped many quality educational systems existing today. Our society is no different, since technology has made such a strong impact on our students and their day-to-day lives. It would be advantageous to the Adventist school system to incorporate an educational program enhanced by technology.

When students advance from the Adventist school system and are ready to face the 'real world', they should be equipped with the experience and knowledge of today's technology. As followers of Christ, we pride ourselves in being "in the world, but not of the world." However, since our students will be working in the world, we have the obligation, as educators, to ensure they receive the necessary instruction that will allow them to be successful and effective contributors to the world in which they live.

It has not gone unnoticed that some of our Adventist schools have made strong efforts to provide advance technology in the classrooms. Many of our schools are outfitted with computer labs, computer equipped classrooms, computer enhanced projectors, and some educators even teach using PowerPoint generated lessons. However, there are many teachers still cautious of the world of technology and keep it at arms length. This reluctance may confine the creativity of students and mask their potential.

With each novel idea, philosophy or even technology, incorporating a cohesive equilibrium is extremely important. In other words, discipline is also a prime factor with the use of technology in the classroom. The absence of discipline may result in an abuse of technology and could cause students to venture unto unhealthy paths. That being said, with effective discipline these tools will greatly enhance the education of many young people.

Let's make the transition from antiquated to progressive. Try something new this year!