

## “APPLES IN TECHNOLOGY”

*By*

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This may sound strange to you but we, at Taylor High School in Taylor, are part of a new Technology Immersion Project. Not only did we move into a beautiful, new building in August, but in mid-August, all faculty members were given a Mac Book Pro for use in classroom instruction. We received in-depth training on the many programs available and how we could best use the computer to enhance our own classroom curriculum.

In October, every student at THS was given a Mac book for their educational and personal use. They are allowed to take the computers home if they participated in the insurance program available to them. At this time, we have less than 15 students who



chose not to take advantage of this opportunity. Teachers are using the computers to expand instruction in the curriculum in their particular classes. Research is now available at their fingertips. Since we are “wireless” students can now spend their lunch time completing assignments or just listening to music they have downloaded.

When the computers were issued by our TIP Coordinator, Sandy Vaughn and her husband, Superintendent Jerry Vaughn, they were told that they could download music and other programs on their laptops, but classroom instruction was the primary purpose of the computers. It has taken some adjustment on the teachers’ parts, as well as the students’, to learn what is admissible and what boundaries must be followed.

## Apples in Technology

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On a personal note, I had never worked on a Mac, so this was definitely a new experience. But those of us, who have been in education for very long, know that education is



constantly changing and we must provide opportunities for our students to graduate high school with the knowledge gained in the core subjects and also the latest knowledge and skills in technology. The TIP Coordinator, and her assistant, is available all day, every day, to assist anyone with computer/technology problems

that arise. Also, the TIP Coordinator's job includes providing professional development to teachers and finding resources for teachers to use in the classroom.

The reason for the Technology Immersion Project at Taylor High School is student success. All students now have access to the same learning tools. Using technology in teaching and learning allows students to be creative, more excited and plugged in to learning.

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