

Upper Canada District School Board: 2014 - 2015

Project Title	Tech Coaching Project – Embedding Technology into Teaching and Learning
Description	<p>Our Tech Coach Project was founded in the belief that IF 21st century competencies are leveraged through the use of technology in a collaborative peer tutor model in the classroom, THEN the use of technology will result in increased student engagement, increased student achievement, increased student voice, increased ability for students to demonstrate their learning in a variety of ways which better complement their learning style and increased teacher and student efficacy with technology enhanced learning and teaching.</p> <p>Our focus for this school year was to pilot the Tech Coach Project in 4 different intermediate/secondary schools. Within those 4 intermediate/secondary schools, “Tech Coach” courses were offered for senior level students. “Tech Coach” students worked with a variety of classes in a leadership role to assist the students and teachers in learning how technology may enhance their learning and teaching.</p>
Context	<p><i>Number of students: 142</i></p> <p><i>Number of teachers: 12</i></p> <p><i>Number of schools: 4</i></p> <p><i>Grades/Program: Grades 8 - 12</i></p>
Impact on Students	<p>The students and teachers in the participating classroom and the student and teachers in the Tech Coach Classes perception of student engagement differed. The teachers and students who lead the Tech Coach classes saw an increase in student engagement whereas the actual participating classrooms pronounced a change. The parent survey results seem to support this finding.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There was a role-reversal between the Participating Classroom Teachers who were learning from the Tech Coach Students. • The Tech Coach Teacher and the Tech Coach Students were co-learners throughout the Tech Coach Project. • Student voice increased, giving students more ownership over what they are learning and how they are learning. • The use of technology enabled Participating Classroom Students to demonstrate their learning in a variety of ways. • In some cases, Participating Classroom Students felt that the Tech Coach project increased their ability to choose the topic and be a part of creating the content which was being explored. • Tech Coach Students, placed in a leadership position, were given the opportunity to decide on suitable technology and then share their learning with the Participating Classroom Students.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The use of technology allowed for increased group work and collaboration among students who helped each other explore the new technologies and how these new technologies could be integrated it into their learning. • Participating Classroom Students learned from their peers (Tech Coach Students) who demonstrated and modeled the appropriate use of the technology. • Tech Coach Students and Participating Classroom Students indicated that they used varied methods of communication amongst their peers and teacher. • In some cases, Tech Coach Students indicated that Participating Classroom Students benefited by having to share a device because it put them in a collaborative space. • Participating Classroom Students felt that the Tech Coach Project enabled new learning partnerships amongst their peers.
Impact on Instruction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In some cases, Participating Classroom Teachers started thinking about changing their teaching practice towards including technology-enabled instruction. • When the Tech Coaches were present in the Participating Classrooms, the teacher’s role shifted to one of a co-learner. • Participating Classroom Teachers became more aware of how technology can give students more choice in how they demonstrated their learning. (product-based). • Participating Classroom Teachers and Tech Coach Teachers formed learning partnerships to problem-solve various classroom issues.
Impact on System	<p>Although this was a secondary project, many of our Tech Coach classes formed learning partnerships with elementary schools and Grade 7/8 classes in their building to facilitate Technology Enabled Teaching and Learning. Exposure to the Tech Coach model in elementary grades was found to build 21st Century Competencies before students reach high school.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 142 students and 12 teachers were exposed to various methods of Technology Enabled Teaching and Learning. We hope that this exposure will encourage adoption of a growth mindset in the school. • 142 students and 12 teachers were exposed to the benefits of shifting the teacher’s role to that of a facilitator and co-learner. • It was demonstrated to classroom teachers that students were willing and capable of taking on leadership roles to further their own learning and the learning of their peers.

NOTE: Information in the summary is taken directly from the data contained in the final project report.