Digital Learning Inventory

1. **Create a Digital Learning Environment Inventory:**
   What tools, software, operating systems, and equipment are available in your school and classroom? (including but not limited to: videoconferencing, streaming, photos sharing sites, video sharing sites, document sharing sites, podcasts, blogs, wikis, social networking sites, etc.)

   - ✓ Each teacher has a computer in his/her classroom. A few teachers, like me, have some computers for student use. (There are 8 student computers in my room.)
   - ✓ Each computer has basic programs (Word, Publisher, PowerPoint, Excel).
   - ✓ There are some specialized programs like Read 180 on our computers as well.
   - ✓ Our school recently upgraded from Windows XP to Windows 7. Most of our computers, especially student computers, are a little old and slow.
   - ✓ We do have an internal network with the school and district so we are able to use our G-drive to share documents, pictures, and films. This is helpful to collaborate and share materials with our colleagues, even across town at other schools.
   - ✓ The district has required that all teachers use a program called Aeries for attendance and grades. They tried to upgrade our program this year, but had to resort to the old program as it was not ready yet.
   - ✓ We also have some limited videoconferencing abilities.
   - ✓ Our school purchases some specialized research programs, such as Discovering Collections, Gale Databases/Ebooks, and Issues and Controversies.
   - ✓ Our school also has numerous student computer labs, some equipped with digital/video editing and specialized photo, architecture, and yearbook programs.
   - ✓ Our district just purchased a program called illuminate which allows teachers to produce assessments, take pictures of the answer keys with a "ziggy: camera, and instantly have student data.
   - ✓ Construction is underway to build a large new facility on campus to house dozens of classrooms. This building will be equipped with the best technology, including smart boards, microphones, Wi-Fi, etc.

2. **How does your school make use of school and/or teacher websites?**

   - ✓ Our school has a thorough website (http://pvhs.chicousd.org/) which is maintained by an outside source and includes the following information:
     - Library resources and schedule
     - Counseling resources, college information, curriculum handbook, scholarship opportunities, PSAT information, tutoring resources, financial aid, AP testing information
     - Department information and contacts
     - Information on our PTSA, school foundation, Sports Boosters, Theater Boosters, School Site Council, Grad Night, Alumni
     - Athletic schedules, rosters, and eligibility
     - School calendar and bell schedules
     - Staff directory and online forms
     - Student store and yearbook information
     - Mission statement, notable honors/programs, newsletters

- Pictures, videos, and student work
✓ The school has offered and encouraged our staff to create teacher websites using the district's program (Freedom); however, the program has recently changed and only 25% of the teachers (at most) take advantage of this even though there is training offered on how to develop an individual website.
✓ Example teacher websites:
  - http://www2.chicousd.org/dna/pvhigh/teachers/AmyBesnard/
  - http://www.raymondbarber.com/
  - http://pvhs.chicousd.org/subsites/Beth-Burton/

3. **How are you currently utilizing technology for learning?**

✓ I do have a thorough website which includes posts, assignments, helpful links, etc.
✓ I also utilize webquests, virtual field trips, United Streaming, YouTube, and podcasts as well as PowerPoint and Prezis.

4. **From the list of global e-learning sites, which are available and which sites are blocked by your firewall?**

✓ Ironically, many e-learning sites are blocked by our firewall. Even trying to show a YouTube clip or videoconference becomes an issue and you must get clearance well in advance to earn a temporary password to gain access. It is a hassle, but it is possible.

5. **What sites and tools are colleagues in your building using?**

✓ Only one teacher on campus has the technology and know-how to conduct screencasts. Other common sites and tools used are translator sites, art links, vocabulary interactive links, book links, Infotrac, research links, citation links, and limited photo and video editing programs.

6. **Is there a system for evaluating student technology literacy in your school?**

✓ No, we no longer have any form of assessment for student technology literacy.

7. **If so, how effective or helpful have you found the assessment?**

✓ Not applicable.

8. **Gather suggestions from students on their ideas for integrating technology into their learning. What tools that are not presently available, would help to achieve district objectives?**

✓ There is one teacher at my school who has screencasts; the students *love* this because it enables them to easily watch and catch up on any missed material.

While they wish all teachers would have screencasts, they also recognize we do not each have the technology or the training to do it.

✓ Video sharing

✓ Use of Wikis

✓ "*Effective* use" of smart boards – students said teachers would sometimes mistakenly use them as glorified notes

✓ Use of Facebook for assignments and communication. Most of this would be manageable by teachers, again, with the appropriate training.

✓ Use of iphone apps – for in-class surveys, student feedback, quick informal assessments

✓ Use of text messaging programs for homework reminders, updates, and announcements

9. **Using your Digital Learning Environment Inventory:**

   a) Suggest an improvement or solution to technology/technology use in you school or district.

   ✓ Our school could seriously benefit from having a full-time technology instructor to provide group and one-on-one trainings for teachers. We could also improve overall district technology with better computers; obtain scanners, and a personal wish, tablets and appropriate software. While I know that firewall is in place for our protection, it often restricts teachers from accessing programs that would be educationally beneficial. Securing a password (which constantly changes) is an ever-growing issue.

   b) Submit a paragraph describing a potential use of technology in your unit plan.

   ✓ As part of the research requirement for my *Fairytales From Around the World* lesson, I would like students to become part of ePals Global Community. Each group of students will need to connect with students from the country in which they are researching. Through e-mail exchange and possibly Skype, I would like students to talk with each other and share cultural information, particularly that which would apply to their final project. Rather than present in a typical PowerPoint, I would like students to work collaboratively to create a WIX website which will include pictures, video, music, and required information. Each group will share their WIX website with their new ePals who can provide feedback and then the groups will share their WIX websites in class.

The information in this Inventory represents the author's opinion. This does not necessarily reflect the opinion of Pleasant Valley High School or Chico Unified School District.