**Focus Group – Ahern Student Survey**

**March 21, 2014**

**Grade 8 Students**:

Dominic Amico – Student Council President

Faith Perry – Student Council Vice President

Emily Bubencik – Student Council Treasurer

Sophia Prinos – Student Council Secretary

Anthony (Tony) Quartarone - Webmaster

Olivia Balabanis

**Grade 6 Students**:

Joshua Sitte

Ryanne McGowan

**Grade 5 Students**:

Adam Connolly

Moly Flaherty

1. *Please describe how and where you typically use technology at school*.

All of the students responded with “mostly the computer labs.” The 8th grade students said they rarely use the computers in the classrooms. They generally use their on tablets or laptops, mostly for math and science notes. They would like to have the use of tablets and laptops encouraged more.

5th & 6th graders said they generally use classroom computers for finishing work that was already started in the computer lab; mostly during recess time.

*Debbie asked if they like the idea that they can bring whatever device they want?*

**Faith**: students are more comfortable bringing what they have instead of having to learn how to use a new device. “We are most comfortable with what we already have at home.”

**Adam:** some students would just play their games on their device.

*Asked to follow up on a comment about the music tech lab*:

8th grade students all said they don’t use it…feel teachers don’t want them using it because the equipment is very expensive

**Faith:** only used it in 5th grade chorus

**Dominic:** believes general music classes still use it

**Ryanne**: sometimes uses it for chorus

1. *Within the context of your schoolwork, are there any technology tools or skills that you would like to have? What would these tools or skills allow you to do…or do better?*

**Emily:** we watch videos in math/science and would like something to be able to view them

**Tony:** when taking notes, teachers sometimes talk too fast. There is a device that records the teacher so you can fill in what you missed later.

**Olivia:** enable student accounts to be able to watch YouTube videos in class

**Tony:** can look at tags to determine appropriate videos

**Faith:** there are websites for schools that the teacher gets an account and then students are able to watch video

**Adam:** put website on FPS main page and can view all videos from there

1. *What role does technology play in helping you learn the material taught in class?*

**Ryanne:** Elmo (document camera) – teachers use it all the time; puts vocabulary up for students to copy

**Josh:** Elmo and HoverCam; saves time in writing down information

**Adam:** computer class; keyboard typing programs

**Olivia:** teacher uses Smartboard every day; easy to take notes and she can check homework

**Emily:** Smartboards; all the teachers use them

**Dominic:** teacher has projector but no HoverCam; uses overhead instead.

Teachers post videos that teach lesson…sometimes do it at home

Pros: learn on your own, learn at your own pace, **Emily:** can stop and rewind

Cons: not reviewing in class, up to you to learn, sometimes not prepared for class

**Ryanne:** Quizdom – different questions on what needs to be worked on and what doesn’t

**Emily:** helps to review

**Molly:** teachers use PowerPoint a lot – easy to follow

1. *Please describe the role, if any, that technology plays in your work with other students.*

Most of the students answered not much.

**Olivia:** Edmodo

**Ryanne:** use Wikis a lot

**Adam:** use cell phones as device

**Tony:** there is not much connection for phones but plenty for tablets

1. *What do you think it means to be media literate? How does FPS ensure that students develop media literacy?*

**Emily:** being literate means you can use correctly

**Dominic:** means that you have vast amount of knowledge, not in just one area. School could push to do more.

**Faith:** you know how to use, how to access various types of programs

**Olivia:** in 5th & 6th grade you learn more in computer class like Word... 7th & 8th grade App Tech not much learning about various programs…more about tools, not what we use every day like Word…

All the 8th graders feel there is a gap from grades 5&6 to 7&8.

1. *What does digital citizenship mean to you? To what extent have your teachers addressed digital citizenship and ethical use of online resources?*

**Adam:** be good on the Internet, don’t do bad things

**Dominic:** normal citizenship, still be courteous, ethical, polite; don’t be different than what you are in person

**Adam:** sometimes kids that are good do bad things on the Internet

**Josh:** kids think they can do bad things

**Ryanne:** when friends post bad things about someone but they wouldn’t say it to them in person

8th grade students said teachers talk to them about ethical behavior, plagiarism…

**Ryanne:** don’t have as much exposure to computers in elementary so when they come to grade 5 it’s very confusing…it would be better to start in elementary *(side note: less access at Burrell Elementary where this child attended elementary school)*

**Faith:** some classroom computers don’t work…one lab had 13 computers that didn’t work

**Ryanne:** teachers use computers a lot for projects in class

8th graders feel it’s not necessary to have computers in classroom.

**Tony:** think we should work away from Internet Explorer, it’s too slow…should use Google Chrome or Firefox…or Opera!

**Dominic:** should be given a choice in what browser to use

**Tony:** Chrome/Firefox can do whatever you want…

**Adam:** should be able to put your own background on the screen

1. *Is there anything else you would like to share about your experience with technology in Foxborough Public Schools?* (Debbie mentioned that FPS is switching to Office 365 and there is discussion about giving students their own email accounts through our system.)

All the students agreed that this would definitely enhance their experience.

**Adam:** can’t access Zingy without Chrome. 8th grade students disagreed and explained how to access it.

**Olivia:** when doing group work, if you’re out sick you have to text message to find out what was missed; this can be a problem. If students had their own email it would be much easier.

**Emily:** can email a file to a folder when remote access isn’t working

**Adam:** I could send an email to my iPod and work on it later

**Dominic:** remote access not compatible… Is there something that can be done to make it work with all devices?

**Adam:** make school apps!