



Pickerington Local School District  
90 North East Street • Pickerington, Ohio 43147  
614-833-2110  
Brian Seymour, Director of Instructional Technology  
Darin Hartsell, Technology Supervisor  
[www.pickerington.k12.oh.us](http://www.pickerington.k12.oh.us)

### **Course Instructors:**

- Brian Seymour, PLSD Director of Instructional Technology
  - [brian\\_seymour@plsd.us](mailto:brian_seymour@plsd.us)
  - 614-833-2110
- Whitney Robinson, PLSD Instructional Technology Coordinator
  - [whitney\\_robinson@plsd.us](mailto:whitney_robinson@plsd.us)
- Darin Hartsell, PLSD Technology Supervisor
  - [darin\\_hartsell@plsd.us](mailto:darin_hartsell@plsd.us)
- Mike Magerko, PLSD Technician (PHSN)
  - [mike\\_magerko@plsd.us](mailto:mike_magerko@plsd.us)
- John Tucci, PLSD Technician (PHSC)
  - [john\\_tucci@plsd.us](mailto:john_tucci@plsd.us)

### **PLSD Technology Guru Program Base of Operations**

- PHSC or PHSN Media Center
- Each day Technology Guru students will need to check in with the Media Center Specialist (PHSC - Mrs. George, PHSN - Mrs. Lindquist) for attendance purposes.
- Technology Guru students will have a special pass allowing them to move throughout the building to support teachers and staff in the building.

### **Course Description**

The Student Technology Guru Program course, open to students in grades 10, 11, and 12, is a yearlong, hands on study of technology integration in an educational context. Students are required to assess problem sets throughout the day and define the best approach to addressing or solving the problem. In addition to solving problems for students and teachers, students will be required to complete and maintain several running projects that address problems or solutions in educational technology integration. The course also asks students to have a prior understanding of Apple OS, Chrome OS, and the iPad iOS. To be considered for Help Desk, students are required to interview with the Director of Instructional Technology, Technology Supervisor and building level technicians, as well as the building administration. Interviews are held in the late spring. \*In addition to skills and knowledge related to educational technology, Genius Bar students should possess strong research, writing, and critical thinking skills. Students are expected to be self-motivated, independent learners. The Student Genius Bar will be limited to 16 students per high school, with two students managing the Genius Bar per period. Students will have the opportunity to obtain Apple and Google Industry credentials.

## **Alignment to Pickerington Local School District's Learning Expectations**

1. Employ current technology to investigate, create, communicate, and produce
  - Technology Guru students will research the latest developments in educational technology. They will identify the best types of technology tools to use in an educational setting. They will design a tutorial demonstrating how to use the tool as well as an example product, and share their product with a global audience via their individual and/or Technology Guru blog.
  
2. Apply a variety of problem-solving strategies
  - Technology Guru students will take a proactive approach to problem-solving through experimenting and designing digital products. Technology Guru students will also troubleshoot technology problems (both hardware and software) for students and teachers and will offer multiple solutions to technology-related problems.
  
3. Communicate orally & write effectively
  - Technology Guru students will author content for the Technology Guru blog. Types of content includes written blog posts, screencasts and podcasts. Students will also host Live Google Hangouts on Air, deliver classroom presentations for teachers and students, and may have the opportunity to present at local, state, and regional conferences.
  
4. Read critically & obtain, evaluate, analyze, and apply data
  - Through ongoing research and the development of a personal learning network, Technology Guru students will be on the cutting-edge of trends in educational technology. They will curate useful educational technology resources and tools for teachers and students.
  
5. Demonstrate self-control and respect for all individuals
  - Technology Guru students will manage their time and multiple projects effectively, collaborate with their Technology Guru colleagues, and provide exceptional customer service to students, teachers, parents, administration, community members, and Technology Guru visitors.
  
6. Pursue and participate in modes of artistic and creative expression
  - Technology Guru students will demonstrate the creative and innovative use of technology through designing original digital products.

## 7. Exhibit responsible citizenship

- Technology Guru students will be responsible, work independently, and demonstrate leadership. They will use social media tools responsibly and will develop a positive and appropriate online presence. They will serve as role models to their peers.

## Technology Guru Course Requirements

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### 1. PLSD Technology Guru Blog

- In order to support teaching and learning in a digital world, Technology Guru students will be responsible for authoring content and contributing posts to the PLSD Technology Guru blog on a consistent basis. Posts are expected to occur at least once every two weeks and should be ready for review prior to publishing at least 24 hours prior to the due date. Students have freedom and flexibility in the types of posts they publish.

- The following are suggested types of blog posts:

#### A. Learning Modules Blog Posts:

- For beginner, intermediate & advanced features of PLSD foundational apps as well as new and emerging apps & technology tools. These modules should include screenshots and step by step tutorials.
- Whenever possible, students should create learning modules featuring tools they have direct experience using in the classroom. Sharing personal success stories in posts is encouraged.
- The goal of every module created is to provide teachers and students with clear and concise information demonstrating and/or discussing how to effectively integrate the tool or application into the classroom.
- More complex tools may be demonstrated and therefore longer blog posts may be necessary.
- Technology Guru students should research and select current and emerging technology resources that can be used to increase student engagement and provide differentiated instructional strategies for teachers of specific content areas in an iPad learning environment.
- The creation of tech modules also serves to demonstrate the skills you have learned as a Technology Guru student. Prior to deciding which application or tool to highlight on the blog, students must be able to articulate the following:
  - Purpose:
    - How will this application support and impact teaching and learning at Pickerington High School Central/North?
  - Timeline:
    - How long will it take to create this module?
  - Determine:
    - How will my work contribute to the educational technology vision plan of Pickerington Local School District?

**B. Critical Analysis Blog Posts:**

- to provide your perspective on trends and issues in educational technology, specifically schools that are 1:1 with technology. Example: cell phones in the classroom, social media use in schools, digital citizenship, personalized learning, blended learning, learning with iPads or Chromebooks, etc.

**C. App reviews Blog Posts:**

- review iPad or Chromebook apps that will support innovative teaching strategies in a variety of content (subject) areas.

**D. Teacher and student profiles Blog Posts:**

- to highlight the innovative teaching and learning taking place at Pickerington HS Central/North, can include teacher or student profiles/ interviews.

**2. Technology Guru Live-Google Hangout On Air**

Technology Guru students will collaborate, create & host PLSD Technology Guru Live. This is a Live Google Hangout On Air that will allow you to report on the latest developments in educational technology and/or what is happening inside the classrooms of PHSC/PHSN in terms of innovative technology integration. Additionally, you are encouraged to seek out appropriate guests inside and outside of the PLSD community to be featured on an episode of PLSD Technology Guru Live. Another option for PLSD Technology Guru Live is to do a live screencast demonstrating the use of a tool. An outline of the broadcast must be completed prior to airing. Episodes should be promoted through our social media channels. Our YouTube channel showcases episodes we have broadcasted so far.

Suggestions for episodes include:

- Highlighting the creative work of teachers, departments, students, staff, and administration at PLSD. This could be done through interviewing someone at PLSD or discussing an innovative learning experience/project you recently completed
- A tutorial-based episode where you would screen share and walk viewers through how to use a specific web tool or application.
- The use of digital communication tools, including social media, in an educational setting
- Any and all aspects of digital citizenship; cybersafety, digital commerce, health and wellness, information and media literacy, digital etiquette, digital footprints, etc.
- Industry expert panelists; app developers, career-specific episodes

- Updates on your Individual Learning Endeavor (ILE) (20% time)
- Conversations with other student-run tech teams to share & discuss best practices with tech integration

Effective planning and preparation is required to produce a high quality live broadcast. The theme of the broadcast and the stories to be included should be determined in advance. Additionally, scheduling of interviews and the writing of a script and/or outline must take place at least one week prior to broadcast. The goal is to broadcast an episode of PLSD Technology Guru Live every Friday. PLSD Technology Guru students will rotate through who will host each episode. Due to the logistics of scheduling, students must be flexible and willing to host multiple times. Each student must host a minimum of one independent PLSD Technology Guru Live, and one partnered PLSD Technology Guru Live per semester.

### **3. Critical Analysis**

- Technology Guru students will be expected to research and report on a current technology topic or trend of their choosing. After locating a technology-related video or article on a credible blog or news website, students should write a critical analysis of the article and post it to their personal blogs.
- Note: adjustment to due dates and frequency of articles is subject to change based on other projects taking place in the Technology Guru program.

### **4. Client Services**

- Technology Guru students will offer their services to clients (teachers, support staff and administrators) who are in need of technology tools, resources, support and repair.
- For example, Technology Guru students may be asked to
  - support teachers in the classroom while first trying out a new application or web tool.
  - provide technical assistance during presentations in the building
  - provide troubleshooting to determine why a digital tool is not working properly
  - perform basic technology repair and assist PLSD Technicians in fix and repair issues.
- Technology Guru students will be issued a PLSD Technology Help Desk account and help desk tickets will be assigned to them throughout the year.

## 5. Individual Learning Endeavor-20% Time Project

- Technology Guru students will document their learning through the development of their own personal blog and will also have the opportunity to pursue an individual learning endeavor (ILE).
- Your personal blog and your ILE is the capstone of this course. Think of these course components as your “20% time project,” which is derived from Google’s notorious 20% time workplace culture.
- As a Technology Guru student, you will be given 1 day a week to work on your own individual learning endeavor; your 20% time project.
  - This project is also modeled after Monument High School located in Great Barrington, Massachusetts.
- After watching the video playlist (<https://goo.gl/WyMB7P>) highlighting the program, you will gain a better understanding of the type of individual endeavor (ILE) you can pursue.
- Your ILE may or may not involve technology, however it should center around clearly defined individual learning goals.
  - For example; “I will learn how to how to code or create an app and will demonstrate it for the committee at the end of the year,” could be an ILE.
  - The only requirement I have regarding your ILE is that you must demonstrate your learning at the conclusion of the year, and you must select a project that will have a positive impact on our school community.
  - If necessary, I will assist you in the development of your ILE to get you started. You will complete a SMART goal planning sheet prior to the start of your ILE.
- Your personal blog is also a part of your ILE and should serve as a reflection piece regarding what you are learning as a member of a collaborative team, but also as an independent learner. Your personal blog should contain artifacts of the best work you are creating as a Technology Guru student (links to posts on the Technology Guru blog, drafts of posts from Google Docs) and your reflections on the knowledge and skills you are developing as a member of this program. Essentially, you want to start “thinking about your thinking.” Design wise, your personal blog should be a reflection of who you are and what makes you unique.
- Ultimately, your personal blog should be used as a tool to market your individual talents and skills and should be able to withstand the scrutiny of an interview for an internship or college admission. Your individual blog should be a place where you highlight your intended career goals and aspirations. You should be able to articulate in your personal blog how your Technology Guru experiences will help you achieve your goals for the future.
- In late April each student will be required to give a presentation to a committee of students, teachers, building and district level administrators on the results of your ILE.

## 6. Google and Apple Credential/Certifications

- The two major platforms that PLSD supports is the Google and Apple platforms. Throughout the school year you will encounter numerous issues to troubleshoot through those platforms with the lens of technology supporting teaching and learning
- **Google Certification**
  - By the end of the school year each student will need to complete and pass the Google 1 Fundamentals Training certification program and earn your certificate.
  - This certification program is how to effectively use technology (Google) in the classroom.
  - The training site can be found at:
    - <https://edutrainingcenter.withgoogle.com/training>
    - You will need to log in with your Google account and complete all 13 units. When you are ready for the assessment, please contact Mr. Seymour for the assessment code.
- Apple Certification
  - **asdfasdfsdfasldkfhaskdlf**

## Grading Criteria

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### Individual Digital Portfolio (Individual Blog): 35%

- NOTE: Your Individual Digital Portfolio will all be managed through your Google Sites Page
- 1. Each week the student presents thorough blog post
  - *one blog post for students' personal blog, per week*
- 2. Maintains entries that serves as a timeline of the work each student is completing throughout the course of the year on a shared Google sheet. There is a clear and distinct connection between the student's portfolio entries and the work completed for the Help Desk blog (Weekly Reflections)
- 3. The blog posts are specific, comprehensive and reflects on an ultimate theme or goal of increasing technology knowledge and skills.
- 4. Critical analysis pieces (App Reviews, Tech Articles & TED Talk/YouTube Analysis)

5. The digital portfolio is organized, easy to navigate, and helps generate a distinct “digital brand.”
6. Student demonstrates through his/her individual digital portfolio that he/she is researching educational technology news and developments
  - i.e. the student cites the sources which have supported the development of his/her posts for the PLSD Technology Guru blog.
7. Technology Guru Live-Google Hangout On Air
  - 1 per semester on individual basis
  - 1 per semester on a partner basis

### **PLSD Technology Guru Blog (Tech Modules) 25%**

1. Blog posts present a comprehensive look at the student’s learning progress from beginning to end.
  - *minimum of one blog post for the PLSD Technology Guru Blog every two weeks as assigned per the schedule in Google Classroom.*
2. The student’s presentation of his/her research meets the learning objective or goal set forth by the student and approved by the instructor and addresses the question:
  - How will my work contribute to the greater good of society and innovation?
  - How will my work contribute to the educational mission and vision of PHSC/PHSN and a digital learning environment?

### **Individual Learning Endeavor Module- 20%**

1. Students updates progress towards achieving their ILE on a weekly basis per the time log in Google Sheets
2. Student presents evidence supporting he/she is moving towards accomplishing their established ILE goal; pictures, videos, documents, slides, etc.
  - Evidence kept in Google Drive

### **Client Services - 20% during the first semester and 10% during the second semester**

1. Students will work with the PLSD Technician assigned to their building to support teachers and staff in integrating and repair of educational technology
2. Students will be evaluated by the number of tickets, the speed the tickets were resolved, the appropriateness of the resolution and communication with the staff member and/or technician.



## Google and Apple Certification - 10% during the second semester

- Students must complete and pass both certifications, if not completed a grade of “incomplete” will be given until the certifications are completed and passed.
- Students will have the entire school year to review, study and learn about the Google and Apple platforms for the certification assessment.
- Students will take the assessment in mid-May.

## Tips for Writing Blog Posts

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1. **Paragraph structure** - When writing for the blog, paragraphs can be much shorter. Sometimes a “paragraph” could be a stand alone sentence to add emphasis. Additionally, it is important to remember most people will be reading our blog from a tablet or Smartphone.
  2. **Voice** - In a formal essay, one written for an academic audience, voice is often formal. For a blog post, voice can be sharp, witty, humorous, sarcastic, etc.
  3. **Sentence fragments & slang** - If you were to include a sentence fragment or use slang in a formal essay, you would be breaking some major rules and your grade would reflect that. However, when writing a blog post, a fragment can be used to create emphasis. And while it should be used sparingly, slang can be used to create your unique voice and connect with your readers.
  4. **Supporting evidence** - In an essay, you learn to use direct quotes and indirect quotes. For a blog post, the evidence you use to support your points can simply be an indirect reference. You can simply link to another resource that supports your points. This can actually establish your credibility as someone who has done his or her research on the topic. Just be sure that the link you are referencing comes from a valid and current resource.
  5. **Audience** - An essay is typically written for your teacher. A blog post however is written for a global audience. An effective blog post is influential. It can spark a lively conversation or a heated debated. Blogging is meant to be interactive. The best blog posts are shared across various social networks such as Twitter, Google+, Facebook, and LinkedIn. Your goal is to write a post that resonates with your target audience and prompts them to curate or bookmark it. Ultimately, your blog post can become a reference or supporting evidence in someone else’s blog.
  6. **Engagement Level** - This is really meant for you, the blogger. Writing a blog post should be fun. You should feel a sense of freedom to “bend the rules” a bit and experiment.
- The blogging rubric for the Help Desk blog can be found: <https://goo.gl/Y1hrtt>

### **Time Management/Productivity:**

Being productive during your Technology Guru period is a critical component of your grade. There is no such thing as “down time” in this course. There will always be something you can be working on. In the event you find that you are done with your work, you need to develop an idea for the next project you wish to pursue, or consult with one of the instructors on what you can do next to contribute to Guru Program.

1. Student functions independently with little direct supervision
2. Student is able to prioritize assignments and handle multiple projects at once
3. Student meets all assigned deadlines and/or meets with the instructor to discuss an extension
4. Student documents their productivity on their personal blog
5. Identifies specifically what he/she accomplished during the week
6. Analyzes the skills knowledge that were developed as a result of completing the tasks
  - Recognizes strengths as well as areas for improvement

### **Cooperation & Collaboration:**

Technology Guru students must have a cooperative and team-oriented attitude. There will be many projects throughout the course that multiple students may be working on at once. In essence, Technology Guru Program functions as a “creative boutique” which means we essentially focus on design and innovation. In order for any company to truly innovate, they must function as a collaborative team. That being said, there is no such thing as, “that’s not my job” in the Technology Guru program. Working as a team will allow us to accomplish much more than any of us could accomplish alone.

### **Human Relations & Interpersonal Skills**

As a member of Technology Guru Program, it is expected that you provide top-notch customer service to each and every customer who enters the Guru area or that you are requested to visit. Whether you are problem-solving for a student, teacher, staff member, or administrator, you must always put the needs of our customers first. Solving problems efficiently and working to establish a long-term relationship with our stakeholders should be your top priorities.