

Leif Ericson Day School

Computer Education

Computer education is about equipping children with the social and intellectual tools they will need to survive and thrive in the world. This means equipping them with basic skills and helping them to intelligently and effectively acquire new skills. The greatest value of technology is that a student's learning is extended beyond the textbooks, classroom environment, and teacher's interest and knowledge.



In general our goals are to give schoolchildren:

- a sense of self-sufficiency;
- the ability to manipulate, analyze, and organize information
- the skills to combine text, graphics, and sound in reports and presentations
- the ability to communicate effectively with others
- an aptitude for finding information they need to address a problem or complete a project

Pre-S and Kindergarten: Through organized play, children practice and develop social skills; learning to share and work together to solve problems. Children become comfortable with computer equipment. Each child is able to work at an individualized pace and achieve a sense of self-accomplishment and success.

Grades 1,2 & 3: Students work together to create group stories and develop creative writing skills. Students are published on select sites on the Internet in secure fashion. Students learn about other countries and cultures as they communicate with children in other schools around the world via the Internet.

Grades 4 & 5: Students use computers as a tool to help develop creative writing skills. Students are able to sharpen their geography skills and knowledge of the world; AND how to communicate with it. In addition, students learn how computers work: from dissecting an old computer to creating and building a computer of the future. Students learn how computers can simulate real life and how we learn from those simulations.

Grades 6, 7, & 8: The Internet is a powerful tool, which students learn to use with respect and care. Students learn about internet safety and respect of others (netiquette) as they communicate via the Internet. Students learn the global value of the computer as a tool: from project research to graphic arts, from constructing robots to creating a claymation film. Many projects are cooperative extensions of the regular classroom curriculum. 7th and 8th grades have the privilege of an extended computer lab period. The extended lab period allows for continuous work on major projects.

Yearbook Committee: An extra curricular group of 7th and 8th grade students work together in the spring to compile and publish the school's annual yearbook.



Keeping current with the pace of changing technology is always a challenge. Playing a major part in maintaining the 'state of the art' computer lab at Leif Ericson is Leif Ericson's PTA. Through their fundraising efforts, the PTA has contributed as much as \$11,000 per year to buy new computer equipment and maintain our standard of excellence.

In the recent years we were blessed to be the recipients of grants to install laptop computers and a wireless network throughout the school. Therefore students may work in their classrooms with their teachers, as well as in the computer lab.

Our strength is that we don't make computers an end in themselves, but use the machines to provide children a technology enhanced curriculum woven within and directed by our whole mission.

Mr. Warfield, Computer Teacher