Student Technology Leadership Program: How Students Can Lead a School to 21$^{\text{st}}$ Century Learning

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Abstract

Over the last two years the MICDS Student Technology Group has served as a student's first line of defense for problems with their own laptops, or problems completing technology-intensive problems. Furthermore, StuTech has served as a driving force behind many new uses of technology in curricula and assisted teachers in integrating these uses into their classrooms. By leveraging tech savvy students, StuTech has turned these students into allies and forces of institutional support and change while simultaneously keeping these students stimulated in positive endeavors and supporting their further education.

1 Overview of presentation

1.1 Student Technology Group

- Students apply to be members.

- Members man student helpdesk and work during free periods.

- Autonomy was key to motivating students.

- Students as involved as they wish.

1.2 Benefits for StuTech members

- Members learn how to help and teach other students and classes.

- Collaborative and discovery-based learning

- Training course

- Fun! – Giving the group its own space is a key component of this.

- Effort, time and skill are put into positive pursuits.

1.3 Benefits for the student body

- Students are supported, helps minimize technology issues in projects.

- Helps average students 'raise the bar' in their own work.

- Provides an advocate for students in regards to technology issues

1.4 Benefits for faculty

- Members are able to come into classrooms and provide assistance with tech-intensive projects

- Members work with teachers to integrate such projects into their curriculum

- Members can put tech-skills to work to provide technical piece of projects (e.g. hosting wikis, blogs, and other server-side software)

2   Key points to consider

1. StuTech turned tech savvy students from a group that must be controlled into a group that can be taken advantage of and kept them stimulated in ways that traditional classroom education often fails.

2. StuTech provided its members and other students teacher-less learning opportunities and can help other students stretch their use of technology.

3. StuTech support can help reduce stress on faculty and staff in supporting tech-intensive projects making them more likely to engage in such projects in the future.

4. StuTech has the capability to be the driving force behind new and novel uses of technology in education.

5. As a student-driven group, StuTech can often innovate and adapt to new ideas faster than traditional technology staff providing support for 'in the moment' teaching.

3   Questions for discussion

1. How are tech savvy students at your school currently stimulated?

2. How is spontaneous innovation using technology supported?

3. How are students supported when they have issues completing tech-intensive projects?

4. What problems are you currently facing in the implementation of tech-intensive learning? How could a group like StuTech help to eliminate those problems?