

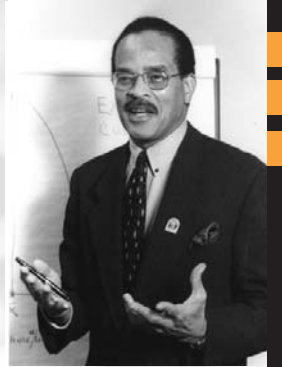
# An Introduction to **Technology in Orange**

By Dr. Columbus Salley, Superintendent of Schools

In this information-dominated age, the Orange Public School District is committed to preparing today's students for life in the 21st century. By integrating technology into all levels of instruction, our school district provides students with opportunities to develop lifelong learning skills. With technology as a tool, teachers and administrators have become more efficient and effective in managing the learning environment. We are better able to offer innovative instructional pathways to create learning opportunities for our students in ways consistent with how their brains and minds learn and process information and experiences in an ever-changing world.

Strategically, through classroom usage of technology tools and applications, educators are better able to construct learning environments that enable students to:

- expand their knowledge base
- become responsible for their own learning
- improve critical thinking, problem solving and decision-making skills
- work ethically, independently, and collaboratively with others
- prepare for employment in a technologically oriented job market
- access, analyze, evaluate, and communicate information
- use technology to assist in achieving the expectations of the Core Curriculum Content Standards

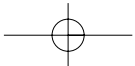


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•**District Web Site:** Using a Technology Literacy Challenge Fund Grant, the Orange Public School District was able to create a district web site: [www.orange.k12.nj.us](http://www.orange.k12.nj.us). The



site serves as an informational resource concerning the district.

Community members can access staff members through e-mail, keep abreast of school functions, and follow informative links. The Orange Police Department, the Orange Public Library, YWCA, St. John's School, and City Hall have joined the school district as web page community partners.

•**Family Laptop Program:** In

an effort to promote home learning activities that support academic achievement, the district has instituted a program to distribute laptop computers to the parents of Orange students. Participating parents are required to complete a 12-hour computer course taught by professors from Seton Hall University before they receive their computer. The laptop is loaned to the family for the length of time they have students attending the Orange school district.



•**Cybercamp:** A free summer camp offered to any student currently in the Orange School District, grades 4 through 12. The camp

revolves around integrating curriculum-based themes into student learning. Curriculum areas, as well as computer skills, are stressed as children explore the Internet. The camp is located in labs at each of the schools, with a total of 15 sites throughout the district.

•**Cisco Networking Academy:**

This is a two-year program designed for students in grades 11 and 12. Upon completion of the academy, students are eligible to take the Cisco Certified Network Associate (CCNA) exam. Upon passing, students will receive CCNA certification, which



is recognized nationwide. This course affords students with the opportunity to learn technical skills in high school and receive industry-recognized certification that will enable them to work in the technical field after graduation.

•**Synergistics & Pathways Technology Lab:** This Technology Lab is designed for students in grades 9-12. Synergistics is a one-semester course that is a prerequisite for the yearlong comprehensive Pathways course. Both of these courses focus on the integration of technology, science, and math applications.

The courses offered in the Synergistics Technology Lab focus on computer assisted instruction and model design in such areas as

flight technology, biotechnology, computer graphics, engineering, graphic communications, and robotics.

The Pathways courses are advanced Synergistics courses. Students will select courses from curriculum suites such as communications, digital manufacturing, free enterprise, and intelligence systems.

•**Staff Laptop Program:** As

the district progresses towards preparing educators for technology, Orange has met its two-year goal of having all certified staff members participate in basic computer literacy training. The district, through a partnership with Seton Hall University, provides a mandatory 35-hour college level course which covers basic computer skills and methods of effectively integrating technology into instruction. At the completion of the course, each staff member receives a laptop on loan for their professional use as they integrate technology into instruction.



•**School Computers:** Every school in Orange houses a 30-station, fully networked computer lab. In the Middle School, High School, and larger elementary schools there are multiple labs to meet the needs of the larger population. At the elementary level, each classroom houses three networked computers. The High School also utilizes laptops in many of the departments.

•**Compass Learning (formerly Jostens):** This is an integrated software program offered through the network in all of the schools in Orange. Compass offers a huge array of curriculum-based activities that are individually assigned to students by the classroom teacher. The program is used in the classrooms as a tool for enrichment, remediation, and instruction. The software is aligned with the NJ Core Curriculum Standards.

•**Tech Tips:** Tech Tips is a monthly newsletter published by the Department of Special Programs. The newsletter keeps the staff members informed as to the district's technology initiative as well as providing curriculum-based web sites and helpful technology suggestions.



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