



CHAD KLINE

South Side Elementary School third-grade student Justin Marcellus, right, looks on as fellow student Cesar Argueta shows Carlene Harmon, left, of Maconaquah School Corporation in Bunker Hill how he uses his iPad in class

Thursday in Kendallville. About 190 educators from 23 school districts in Indiana and Michigan toured East Noble schools to learn about the district's 1-to-1 technology initiative.

## Educators visit EN to learn about 1-to-1

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KENDALLVILLE — About 190 educators from 23 school districts in Indiana and Michigan toured East Noble schools Thursday to learn about the school district's 1-to-1 technology initiative.

Julie Rider, an art teacher with the Metropolitan School District of Steuben County, and Dave Snyder, a member of Angola High School's technology committee, said their school district is considering a similar initiative.

"I'm particularly interested in student-teacher interaction with the computers," said Rider. "Kids use computers outside of school every day, and it's becoming a necessity for college."

Snyder said he wants to learn about East Noble's implementation of the initiative and training for staff.

The teachers, administrators and school technology specialists spent part of the day touring East Noble High School, East Noble Middle School and South Side Elementary School conferring with teachers and visiting classrooms. In the afternoon they attended sessions on policies, procedures

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and implementation and professional development and panel discussions with teachers and students on how personal learning devices have changed classroom education.

In January 2011, the East Noble school board approved the 1-to-1 technology initiative to provide computers to students in all grades. It was financed mostly through book rental fees and technology funds. Wi-Fi networks were installed in all school buildings. Staff training was conducted during the summer, and computers were distributed to students one week before the school year began in August.

Kindergarten and first-grade students received classroom sets of iPod Touches, and grades 2-4 received iPad2 tablet computers. Students in grades 5-12 received Lenova laptop computers. Each student was assigned a device, including the classroom sets.

East Noble Superintendent Ann Linson, who championed the initiative, told the educators assembled in Cole Auditorium that after

a few "glitches," the 1-to-1 initiative is going well.

"It's been a learning experience for all of us, but there are some amazing things going on in our classrooms now," she said.

One justification for 1-to-1 is how students use personal communication devices outside school, according to Linson.

"Students come to school and have to use paper and pencil, and then they use computers, cellphones, iPads outside of school," she said. "In our initial meetings with parents (before the initiative was implemented), they told us their kids were bored in school."

Blaine Conley, principal of Akron Elementary School in the Tippecanoe Valley school district, said his elementary school has smartboards for K-5 students, and the district's administrators are looking at the 1-to-1 initiative for the high school in 2012-2013 school year. He's interested in learning more about how East Noble prepared its students and parents for the initiative.

Maconaquah school district elementary teacher Cindy Watson, a member of her school district's

technology committee, said Maconaquah plans to implement a similar 1-to-1 initiative in the 2012-2013 school year. She came to East Noble with a group of elementary teachers from her school district to see how the devices are used for the K-5 curriculum.

This was the second large group of educators to visit since East Noble introduced the 1-to-1 initiative, according to East Noble technology director Kay Reinoehl. Some return for another look. "Many schools have gone this way or are looking at going this way," she said.

While East Noble administrators considered the initiative, Reinoehl was among East Noble staff members who visited school districts with students using school-provided computers, including a New Jersey school district that implemented 1-to-1 seven years ago.

For teachers reluctant to use the new technology, Linson had this advice: "Your kids know more than you. Let them teach you. Teachers don't have to know everything."

To learn more about 1-to-1, go to the East Noble website at eastnoble.net.