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Talladega County teachers learning to use technology more effectively in classroom



Talladega County Schools principals and coaching fellows at Google in Mountain View, Calif.

Submitted photo

Chris Norwood, Daily Home staff writer, cnorwood@dailyhome.com Jun 22, 2018

TALLADEGA COUNTY -- Teachers from the Talladega County system's middle schools are participating in a national educator coaching program for the second year in a row.

Staff from B.B. Comer High School are also participating in this year's training program, which included a trip to Google's headquarters in Sunnyvale, California.

According to a press release, the program is designed to help "teachers use technology in the classroom more effectively to benefit students."

The county system was one of 50 in the country selected to participate in the program, which is supported by Digital Promise, EdTechTeam and Google. It is "aimed at improving education equity by empowering teachers to leverage technology in powerful ways."

The schools were selected by Digital Promise based on need as measured by students on free or reduced price lunch, "existing technology infrastructure and innovative leadership committed to helping their teachers succeed," the release says.

County Schools Superintendent Dr. Suzanne Lacey said, "For the past year, our middle schools have participated in the Dynamic Learning Project by putting in place a dedicated technology coach for our teachers to support them in their professional learning journey.

"The results for the first year are promising, as teachers are feeling more confident and empowered to use technology in meaningful ways. All of this leads to better preparing our students to thrive in a technology driven world."

Childersburg Middle School Principal Jena Jones added, "The DLP helped shift our school culture toward a more innovative model of education for our students. It was truly empowering for our coach to receive support from Google and Digital Promise to work alongside our teachers to integrate technology in meaningful ways."

Comer High Principal Judson Warlick said, "The DLP work session stressed the importance of equity in education and the need for lessons that energize and engage both students and teachers. We will utilize the coaching model on a daily basis through observations, discussions and planning sessions. We have the technology and now, we will make sure we get the most from it."

Comer High School coaching fellow Brandon Brown added, "I really do think the DLP structure and mission will become part of our culture and be the driving force for innovation for every teacher in Talladega County Schools."

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Principals and coaching fellows from Childersburg, Drew and Munford middle schools have “worked with teachers to apply best practices in the powerful use of technology for teaching and learning; promoted a culture of openness, personalized professional development and continuous improvement between faculty and administration; and engaged with other coaching fellows and their principals to share knowledge and build community support,” according to the release.

“With support from the Dynamic Learning Project, the district will sponsor and train coaching fellows for the district’s remaining 14 schools to provide personalized, tech-based coaching to help our educators leverage technology in transformative ways.”

Liz Anderson, head of social impact programs at Google for Education, said, “At Google, we believe in the power of educators. Technology is just a tool; it can only be transformative when it’s in the hands of an educator who uses it to create meaningful experiences for students. We’re excited to support such a dedicated group in laying the groundwork for innovative use of technology in classrooms across the country.”

Chris Norwood