Beginning with the 2011-2012 school year our Learning Environment was enhanced by initiating 1-to-1 laptop computer technology. Our strategic planning committee invested significant time and effort identifying two foundational components of our educational program: 1) specific traits we seek to nurture in all BCS students, and 2) the learning environment in which we believe those traits are best fostered. During that process, we concluded that technology is one component of our learning environment that, when leveraged appropriately, both enhances our learning environment and accelerates student learning. The inclusion of the “growth mindset” in our learning environment led us to believe that our technology must support one-to-one student use during and beyond school hours at the high school level; and that this preparation must begin in the upper elementary and middle school grades. This decision moves technology outside the computer labs into the classroom and beyond school walls — and connects in-school instruction with out-of-school life experience and student-driven learning.

We further concluded that our current technology framework, both infrastructure and tools available to teachers and students, must continue to be upgraded as they have been since the 1990's. Thus, the question was never “will we up-grade technology?” Rather, the question became “What technology tools will best support our desired student traits and learning environment?”

We first identified the required qualities of needed technology and then began a focused investigation of available technology tools within that framework. Following is a summary of our desired student traits, our learning environment, our technology tool investigation and our implementation strategy:

**Desired Student / Graduate Traits**

1. **Christian Character**: prayerful abiding in Christ, committed to Scripture, healthy community with others, missional serving, and active disciple-making
2. **Continuous Learning**: a “growth mindset and a humble heart” committed to putting forth our best effort in all we do, willing to try new things and understanding that we learn from our mistakes.
3. **Core Capabilities**: excellent understanding and competency in core subjects.
4. **Critical Thinking**: purposeful, reflective judgment in thought, belief, speech and action.
5. **Collaboration**: highly cooperative, highly engaged in dialogue and committed to finding a better way together.
6. **Communication**: a skilled understanding and ability to deliver oral, written, and nonverbal communication to various audiences.
7. **Creative Problem Solving**: the ability to develop and implement innovative solutions to problems and life issues.

**Learning Environment** (intentional setting designed to promote the holistic growth of each student)

1. **Biblical Foundation**: biblical principles will guide all organizational and educational practices
2. **Growth Mindset**: ALL are learners (students/teachers) possessing amazing God-given potential to be developed over a life-time through personal effort and collaboration with other learners.
3. **Teachers**: selection, training and supervision to assure modeling and teaching of desired traits
4. **Student Safety**: relational, physical, emotional, spiritual, and moral
5. **Curriculum** – “Academic Excellence on a Biblical Foundation” – based upon:
   a. Biblical worldview
   b. National, state, local standards
6. **Instruction** – researched best practice to include
   a. Content delivery
   b. Interactive
   c. Problem based learning
   d. Cross-discipline opportunities
   e. Student Internships
7. **Technology Enhanced**: to enhance learning and prepare students for future beyond BCS
**Technology Criteria**  
*Technology: a Learner’s Tool vs. curriculum an end-in-itself*

1. **Environment:** enhances the BCS learning environment and desired student traits  
2. **Safety:** internet content filtering and anti-virus  
3. **Cost:** cost effective – initial and long-term  
4. **Functionality:** access and create educationally rich content – internet and software  
5. **Integration:** complements existing technology – network, SmartBoards, etc.  
6. **Usability:** easy to use, requires little training for teachers and students  
7. **Durability:** quality construction and requiring few repairs  
8. **Support:** has low IT staff to computer ratio - easy to support and update  
9. **Longevity:** sustainable and expandable over time - not soon obsolete

**Technology Tools Considered:**  
Apple: MacBook and iPad  
PC: NetBook and PC Laptop

**Selected Tool: MacBook Laptop** - determined to be the superior tool to support our BCS learning environment. Its over-all superior rating out-weighs cost. We see a potential future role for iPad use for both the lower elementary grade levels and to support our 1-to-1 MacBook Initiative.