



Arlington  
**Education**  
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**3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Education Technology Showcase Set for April 13**  
*Hosted by the Arlington Education Foundation and the Arlington Public Schools*

The use of technology in Arlington classrooms – at all grade levels and in every school – will be on display at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Education Technology Showcase on Monday April 13 from 6-8pm at the Arlington High School Media Center. The event is hosted by the Arlington Public Schools and the Arlington Education Foundation (AEF), whose Technology Initiative is accelerating technology implementation in Arlington schools.

Teachers and students will demonstrate their every-day use of technology that enhances and deepens their understanding not only in the tech savvy disciplines of engineering, computer programming, physics, digital arts and robotics but also in literacy, social studies and world languages among others. Last year's event showcased nearly thirty demonstrations and this year is shaping up to be even bigger.

According to the district's draft Instructional Technology plan that was released in February, it is the district's goal "that the use of technology moves past its most common role of augmenting existing pedagogy to a role in which it will assist in our efforts to "redefine" how we "do" school. It must help to reshape how students learn and how they are able to show what they know and are able to do."

Along with all districts in the Commonwealth, Arlington has adjusted their curriculum to be in line with the Common Core State Standards which clearly articulate the need for the integration of technology into the curriculum in order to prepare students to be college and career ready. The standards call for the use of technology to research, collaborate, and publish as early as kindergarten. The vision of the high school graduate includes descriptors that define a truly digitally proficient student.

The future is bright, especially for those with technology experience. By 2020, seventy percent of U.S. jobs will have a high tech component (CSMonitor), yet there will be 1,000,000 unfilled programming jobs (code.org). Even President Obama has asked every American student to master the tools and technology that will change just about everything we do. Research tells us that girls are just as adept as boys at learning STEM topics (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math), computer science included, but their interest tends to drop off in late elementary or middle school, making early exposure to STEM critical to filling future technology jobs.



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Arlington's challenge is time and money. Current budget constraints limit how much money can be allocated each year for curriculum technology enhancements. That is where AEF comes in. AEF's Technology Initiative is a three year community fundraising effort to accelerate technology implementation in Arlington's schools. Currently in the third and final year, AEF's Technology Initiative has so far granted \$84,000 to the Arlington Schools, establishing a High School computer science lab, injecting technology into the Middle School's Technology and Engineering course (which resulted in the national recognition of teacher Brandy Whitney for her efforts in developing an innovative curriculum) and updating the Computer Science curriculum at the Middle School so that every 6<sup>th</sup> grader receives a full year of computer programming.

But AEF's work is not done. In the third and final year of the Technology Initiative, AEF aims to raise money for three specific areas. As technology revolutionizes science, the importance of exposing students to these tools and techniques increases. Mobile science workstations at the High School are needed to teach methods such as scientific data modeling. Digital artwork is central to 21st Century contemporary art and is increasingly a vital component of a forward looking STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math) curriculum. As a result, the High School needs a fully outfitted Digital Arts Studio where students can create animations, documentary films, experimental videos, web designs, graphic designs and of course, digital still photography. Finally, as the number of Middle School teachers and courses in Technology & Engineering and Computer Science increase, there is a critical need for more equipment so students can work in smaller groups and have more hands-on experience in the classrooms.

*AEF awards over \$100,000 annually in grants to the Arlington Public Schools. AEF works to support and advance public education in Arlington and funds system-wide initiatives and creative new projects to enhance the educational experiences of Arlington's teachers and students. AEF relies on community donations. For more information on AEF's current and past grants, or to donate, visit [www.arlingtoneducationfoundationma.org](http://www.arlingtoneducationfoundationma.org).*