EDUC 537: School technology inventory

Purpose: To help you learn more about the technological resources available in your classroom and in both of the school placements where you will be working.

Talk with your mentor teacher(s), the principal, the media specialist, and other teachers in your school to learn more about the technological hardware and software that are available in your building. Summarize your findings in a page or two that uses an easy to read format. Here are some questions to get you started:

1. Include your name and the name of the school you are reporting on. Remember to include both of your placements.
2. Teacher Productivity tool: Are there computers available in your classroom for teacher use? If so…
   o Describe the computer—Model, monitor size, processor speed, accessories like CD-ROM drives or zip drives.
   o What kinds of software are available for general productivity? MS Word? The entire MS Office suite (includes PowerPoint and Excel)? What version? Some other office productivity suite (ClarisWorks? Lotus Notes?)
   o Does the district take attendance or keep grades using the computer. If it is a grading program, are these items available online for parents to see?
   o Does the teacher have Internet access? Is it filtered? How fast is it (perhaps compared to your experience at Pacific or at home).
   o Has the teacher used the computer for any special projects? If so, then describe them.

3. Student Learning tool: Do students have access to computers in the classroom? If so…
   o How many? Where are they in the room?
   o Do they have Internet access? Can you tell how fast? Does it seem faster or slower than on our campus? Is it filtered?
   o List the specific software. Office? Inspiration?
   o Any specifically instructional software? Geometers Sketchpad? Simulation games?

4. Web 2.0 tool acess
   o Can you access Web 2.0 tools at your school? Are social networking tools like YouTube blocked? If you have a URL that you want access to for your students, can you petition the school/district to allow access? If you create a teacher website at Google sites or Edublogs, can students access it at school?

5. Computer Lab: Do students and teachers have access to a lab? If so…
   o How many computers? What's the student/computer ratio?
   o How often can they go? How often DO they go?
   o Do they have Internet access? Is it filtered? How fast is it?
   o What software do they use in the lab?

- o Do they teach keyboarding in the lab? Or is it reserved for student testing?

6. What other technology do they have?
   - o Projector? Doc camera (e.g. ELMO) Interactive whiteboard (e.g. SmartBoard)? Scanners? Printers? Digital cameras? Digital camcorders? Are these available for faculty checkout only, or can students check them out?
   - o How do they view videos (e.g. via a local cable network or on individual VCR's)?
   - o Other?

7. Your planned use
   - o How might you use these resources in your own placement? As a teacher and/or student demonstration/presentation tool? Might you also book a computer lab or a laptop cart for a task in which your students all have access (individually or in small groups) to computers? Are there resources for students to create a multimedia project related to a unit of study at least once a semester?