

Parents,

You have probably heard that there have been changes made to our “Computer” class; as we are now being called Digital Learning. As technology progresses, we are seeing less of a focus on learning with computers and more a focus with digital devices (Chrome Books, tablets, and smart phones) as well as digital applications (applications, websites, etc.); hence the change to Digital Learning. Down the road, our goal is to start progressing into having devices available on a 1:1 basis for our students.

Along with our change in title, we also have changed our class set-up. Digital Learning will now be rotating with Library and the Counselor. For example, the first four days of school, all students had Digital Learning; last week all students had Library; and, this week all students will have the Counselor. When we are back after Labor Day, we will start this rotation again with Digital Learning. You will soon be able to see this schedule on the building website. This will be in addition to the Art, Music, and PE rotation; it will just replace having “Computers” on a weekly basis.

This change is being made for a variety of reasons. In the past couple of years testing on the computers has increased. This has created a need in finding alternate activities for our younger students, which hasn't been very beneficial for them. This will increase over the next few years as our standardized testing will be completely computer based starting next year. Changing how our rotation has been in the past will allow the needs of our students more effectively. We will be able to work with students in a way that will better fit their individual needs and allow them to learn new ways of sharing their learning through technology as we have students with a wide range of technology skills. Teachers will also be able to utilize the computer lab as another method of meeting a student's individual learning levels. It also frees time up to work with teachers individually, as well as in the classroom, as they explore a variety of learning tools, activities, and events that are available.

It is amazing to see the changes that have occurred in the past 11 years since Ray-Pec has offered this unique class. We have been the only district in Missouri that has had computers as part of a special class rotation with a certified teacher. We have seen tremendous growth in our students' abilities over the years. While change is hard, we think that everyone will find this to be an exciting adventure. Miss Bryant will continue to see the students around school and will be working with them frequently in the classroom as well as the lab.

Please make sure to keep up-to-date with what is happening at Timber Creek in the following ways:

Twitter: @TCEJaguars

District WebPage for Timber Creek: www.raypec.k12.mo.us/timbercreek

Building Website (Currently Under Construction): www.timbercreekjaguars.weebly.com

Thank you,