

### **How it hurts students to refuse a device:**

Corcoran Unified School District brought technology into the classroom about 11 years ago. I was an English teacher at that time. I can speak personally about the dramatic changes I saw in student engagement and task completion when my students had access to the internet. A few years later, when we moved from carts to allowing students to take the devices home with them, I was a learning director. Now, students were able to communicate with the staff and have access to 24/7 learning.

As a principal I have seen students complete complicated and creative tasks like iMovies, video diaries, recorded interviews, and complex presentations with hyperlinks and embedded videos and quizzes. Teachers can check for understanding of all of their students in a single moment and determine next steps.

I had the fortune of visiting some new tech companies this summer. The world is filled with young companies that are less than 5 years old and ridiculously successful. Guess what? Without a tech device, they would be nowhere.

### **My Fears:**

When parents come in to complain about their students having a device and refusing it, we work with those students. We ask the teacher to give the students a pen and paper task. But now that student is losing out on equal access to the curriculum. They can no longer break the four walls of the classroom to research, gather public opinion, take part in an online discussion, or read up-to –the minute digital documents on current events. We have limited their ability to collaborate, think critically, be creative, or communicate. And, these are the very expectations of the current business world and colleges.

### **Addressing concerns:**

CUSD is changing the game of learning for our students. Something that not a lot of other schools are doing. We want to expand their opportunities. Help us with that. Yes, students can and have used devices inappropriately. Parents, help us to address that. We are teaching lessons on digital citizenship, educational uses for social media and cyber bullying. Please, help us in that endeavor. Check the history on their devices. Talk to your student about proper posts on the internet and your concerns with social media. And, don't be afraid to talk to us about a plan for restricting use.

Together as partners we can move forward in increasing academic achievement, personalizing learning for your students, and better preparing them for the real world.

All the best for another great academic year,

Antonia Stone

Principal

Corcoran High School