St. Charles Borromeo Academy Technology Statement

"Technology alone is not enough. It is technology married with the liberal arts, married with the humanities that yields us the results that make our hearts sing." ~ Steve Jobs

Parents and the teachers employed by them are responsible to teach children God's truth about technology so they will understand how it works and become skilled in using it for holy purposes. At Borromeo Academy we will teach students using the Biblical Trivium (knowledge, understanding, and wisdom) of computers and related technology. Students who learn the science of computers God's way will be less vulnerable to dependence upon and manipulation by an increasingly technological culture, but instead will be more effective culture shaping Christian witnesses to their generation. Effective classical teaching in the area of technology should result in graduates who are less vulnerable to cyber control and are better prepared to lead the way in impacting an increasingly technological culture for Christ in college and beyond!

Borromeo Academy believes that technology can enhance and enrich learning but should not be used as the primary tool for instruction.
The Classical model of education relies on quality, personal time with the professional educator to teach, mentor, and assess students. Technology should enrich – not supplant – student learning.

Borromeo Academy believes in handwriting as a valued means of written expression.
Given that writing by hand is unique to humanity and reflects the beauty of the individual, the Classical model of education as well as current research acknowledges that the act itself embeds learning.

Borromeo Academy believes in the preference of print resources over digital media.
Although technology is impressive in its access to facts and information, there is nothing quite like a book in hand. The Classical model of education practices a systematic and slow building of the student's understanding. With training, students will learn when it is appropriate to read printed text and when to utilize technology as a tool.

Borromeo Academy believes that face-to-face conversation is the most effective means when communicating for understanding.
The Classical model of education values close, human interaction, both individually and as a community. Such conversation supports relational dialogue and collective inquiry.

Borromeo Academy believes that reliance on technology limits a student's education.
While technology is efficient, it may limit human interaction. The Classical model of education nurtures the human capacity to reflect and understand.

Borromeo Academy believes in wisdom as the result of slow, rich practice over the efficiency of technology.
The Classical model of education contrasts a modern world that values timeliness, efficiency, and production over relationships, critical thinking, and creativity. Knowledge must be earned through slow, systematic repetition. The Classical educator understands that there is no shortcut to excellence.

Borromeo Academy believes that while fact learning can be measured effectively with technology, true education cannot be quantified solely through numerical data.
The Classical model of education embraces the breadth of available data and information to teach the whole person. Education is more than access to facts and transference of knowledge for a classroom or standardized test. With moderation, we use both numerical and observational data to inform educational practices.

Borromeo Academy believes that a firm foundation in the liberal arts is prerequisite to mastery of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.
The Classical model of education believes that the liberal arts develop the mind and the character of the person, readying them to create and innovate. When integrated into a Classical education, science, technology, engineering, and mathematics develop critical thinking skills in students.

The trivium of technology at Borromeo Academy

There is a *grammar* (knowledge) of computers. Before they begin to use computers, students should learn the basics of how computers work. In this stage of learning, students discover and begin to master keyboarding and computer language skills. Grades K-4

There is a *logic* (understanding) of computers. After mastering the basics and learning how computers work, students can be introduced to why we use computers and the right and wrong ways we can make computers work for us. In this stage of learning, students discover and begin to master the tools that make computers work, like word processing, data management, and other applications. Grades 5-7

There is a *rhetoric* (wisdom) of computers. After mastering the basics and learning how computers work, students are ready to discover and master new ways to put computers to work effectively. In this stage of learning, students begin to design new computers and applications, to write new computer programs, and to use computers to impact their world for Christ. Grades 8-12

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:

Glaser, D. (2015, May 11). The risky english major? Not so fast. *US News*. Retrieved from
　　　http://www.usnews.com/opinion/knowledge-bank/2015/05/11/stem-fields-benefit-from-liberal-arts-skills

Hotz, R. L. (2016, April 4). Can handwriting make you smarter? *The Wall Street Journal*. Retrieved from
　　　http://www.wsj.com/articles/can-handwriting-make-you-smarter-1459784659

Klebnikov, S. (2015, June 19). Liberal arts vs. STEM: The right degrees, the wrong debate. *Forbes*. Retrieved
　　　from http://www.forbes.com/sites/sergeiklebnikov/2015/06/19/liberal-arts-vs-stem-the-right-degrees-
　　　thewrong-debate/#217f55ec41ec

Konnikova, M. (2014, June 2). What's lost as handwriting fades. The New York Times. Retrieved from
　　　http://www.nytimes.com/2014/06/03/science/whats-lost-as-handwriting-fades.html?_r=3

Perrin, C. (2015, April 7). Classical education – The best preparation for STEM [Web log post]. Retrieved from
　　　http://insideclassicaled.com/?m=201504

Weidmann, J. (2014, July 14). Why write? Penmanship for the 21st century [Video file]. Retrieved from
　　　http://youtube.com/watch?v=85bqT904VWA