

BALTIMORE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

DATE: March 27, 2007
TO: **BOARD OF EDUCATION**
FROM: Dr. J. Hairston, Superintendent
SUBJECT: Video Safari Montage
ORIGINATOR: Dr. Hays B. Lantz, Assistant Superintendent, STEM
RESOURCE PERSON(S): Della Curtis, Coordinator, Library Information Services

RECOMMENDATION

That the Board of Education receives an informational demonstration on the Video Safari Montage video-on-demand system that has been made available to schools throughout the county.

Safari Montage™ Video-on-Demand Demonstration
Board of Education of Baltimore County
March 27, 2007

Executive Summary

On October 24, 2006, the Board of Education approved the purchase of an educational video-on-demand system. Baltimore County Public Schools (BCPS) selected the award-winning Safari Montage™ Video-On-Demand and Digital Media Management solution for all schools as its state-of-the-art solution to effectively and efficiently manage resources. Using Safari Montage™, teachers will have the ability use their desktop PC to easily search and select from a library of 1,200 videos and to integrate these digital technology resources with curriculum. In addition to immediate access to quality multimedia, BCPS is using the system to develop and deliver professional development programs produced by The Educational Channel. Through the leadership and direction of Dr. Hairston, the Department of Technology and the Office of Library Information Services jointly funded Safari Montage™ for all elementary, middle, and high schools at a cost of \$250,000. Installation of school servers has been completed and all teachers had access to 1,200 videos on January 20, 2007.

Equipping schools with the Safari Montage™ servers enables efficient and effective access to resources and supports 21st century learning environments for students. All aspects of this project are focused on increasing achievement of all students. In today's digital world, students live in a media-saturated environment. The 24/7 access to, and stimulation from, media has given rise to a new learning style - the digital learner. Digital learners are widely recognized as a combination of the kinesthetic, visual, and auditory learner as a result of early and continuous exposure to multimedia resources.

Safari Montage™ provides anytime access to thousands of high quality educational media that are aligned to the Maryland Voluntary State Curriculum (VSC). The entire digital library is searchable by keyword, subject, and VSC standards. Great care has been taken to ensure that all materials available on Safari Montage™ are of genuine educational value from producers such as National Geographic, PBS, History Channel, Biography, NOVA, BBC, Disney, and many other outstanding educational media producers.

The professional development for this project has touched every area of instruction. It is connected to all aspects of teaching and learning to ensure not only a complete understanding of the employed technologies but also how these technologies are integrated to each area of teaching, learning, and curriculum. The systemic professional development plan is in progress with over 30 high quality professional development sessions available to three-teacher teams.

Safari Montage™ may be accessed through the Office of Library Information Services' webpage.