Launching a Technology Equity Pilot Program

Friday, April 29th, ISP's Blue team conducted a prototype session (a follow-up to their earlier listening session). At this meeting, 17 residents, 1 ISP student, and 2 CSS (Colorado Springs School) students worked to establish a baseline of understanding regarding the resident's comfort level with technology. Based on this and mask preference, participants were divided into 3 groups: (mask, 1:1), (no mask, general understanding), (no mask, basics). The results were fantastic! Residents reported feeling engaged, and highly anticipate future sessions.

The Blue Team summarized the project in their final report:

1. Students' exposure to budget, planning, gathering and analyzing data, implementing a project
2. Making connections with the residents at MSH
3. Helping the seniors feel more comfortable with technology

One of our goals in collecting data was to find a good way to help seniors with technology and connect young and older people at the same time. First, we went to the MSH to learn more about the space. On our next visit, we asked about their childhood experiences and previous experiences with technology and what areas of technological applications they wanted to learn. We also wanted to understand their preferences and differing abilities to understand what

accommodations they might need. With this data, we were able to set up and carry out our pilot class where we gave seniors a successful introduction to their Chromebooks or other devices.

Obstacles –
1. Technological issues connecting at ISP meetings (eg. phones don't allow full participation, internet connections are unstable
2. Students busy on meeting days, bad planning, afterschool activities, the timing of meetings, transportation
3. Getting everyone thinking on the same page about data
4. Depending on skill level, the technology used, and tasks, the student-senior ratio was challenging. Need more students.
5. Internet connectivity not provided by the host site.

Outcomes (public involvement):
1. More connection between and awareness of Myron Stratton Home and Peak Education.
2. Now that some groundwork has been accomplished, we may be able to expand the program into other schools/organizations.

Implementation actions – Plan for future work

Blue Team Recommendations:
1. Staggered schedule to allow for more student involvement without a consistent, weekly schedule.

2. 4-6 weeks in duration; 1-1.5 hours
3. Ideal ratio of students to seniors: 1:1
    a. Minimum number 1:2-3
4. Suggestion: involve parents as volunteers
5. Weekly topics to allow seniors to sign up for what their needs are
6. Snacks/drinks were appreciated (especially when we accommodated a variety of needs)
7. Smaller rooms worked best.
8. In-person meetings were more effective and meaningful.
9. Hire a coordinator to champion and successfully execute the program.