Björknässkolan

Björknäs School

Overview
Country or Region: New Sweden
Industry: Education

School Profile
Björknäs School is located in Salt Lake-Boo, in the Nacka Municipality of Sweden. The school teaches students from preschool to ninth grade.

Number of Students: 950
Gender: Mixed
Age Range: 6-16
School Leader: Leif Högström
School Website: www.bjorknasskolan.se

Björknäs School has been selected to be part of the Microsoft Innovative Schools World Tour. Its approach to education is a showcase example of the following Innovation Topics:

1. **1:1 learning environments.** Students work on their own devices and can use technology at any time to access educational tools.

2. **Project-based learning environments.** Students work in groups to solve problems, make decisions, and go on knowledge quests, while the teacher acts as facilitator.

3. **Student-influenced learning environments.** Involving students in decisions around curriculum and culture.

Microsoft

"We believe in each student's ability to learn and our focus on improving personalized learning, which gives our students the opportunity to work with real-life assignments both in and outside the school. Technology enhances learning and makes these opportunities possible in our school."

Lars Ekelöw, ICT Manager,
Björknässkolan Municipality of Nacka

1:1 learning environments

Björknäs School began implementing a 1:1 program when it opened in 2007; by 2010, all students aged 6 to 16 had their own tablet PC. Technology supports every part of 1:1 learning at Björknäs School, and school administrators believe that tablets have the pedagogical multifunctionality to bring more value to education. Today, the school maintains a 1:1 program for each student and uses a hybrid of both tablets and laptops for students.

Björknäs School uses 1:1 technology within a blended learning environment to improve student outcomes. Students and teachers can decide when the use of technology is most appropriate for achieving the best results according to curriculum. The technology allows for a combination of individual and mixed group learning.

Key Technology
- *Students use Microsoft OneNote to access their schoolwork, which is available to them 24 hours a day, seven day a week.*
- *Digital resources are provided for students with special needs.*
- *Kinect for Xbox One, blogs, wikis, and Microsoft Lync are also used.*

Project-based learning environments

Today, students at Björknäs School participate in several different international projects where information and communications technology (ICT) supports and streamlines the work. Students become highly motivated when they can choose between different devices or methods to complete their projects, which leads to better learning outcomes.

Technology is incorporated in daily schoolwork—students use it for sharing, collecting information, and presenting their projects. Both teachers and students rely on various technologies to collaborate in and outside the school.

Key Technology
- *Microsoft SharePoint is used by students for collaboration, and teachers can support students virtually by using SharePoint to upload information and resources.*
- *Students use Lync, Skype, and Microsoft Office 365 for communication capabilities, which provides students with easy access to information about school projects.*
- *By using tablets, students can learn according to their own personal learning styles.*

Student-influenced learning environments

At Björknäs School, students have control over their own learning, and the school has designed its learning environments around each student's individual needs. Students are encouraged to take personal responsibility for their studies and working environments. This allows them to have greater influence over internal decisions at the school, so that they learn democratic principles and develop the ability to work in democratic forms.

Students at Björknäs School use tablets to complete school work according to their own personal learning styles.

Björknässkolan

"Microsoft Partners in Learning and the Innovative Schools Program have helped us to succeed with both our technical and pedagogical implementation of technology in education. All staff and students are using OneNote in daily work and that has made a brilliant impact on the way we work today. Technology helps us achieve better results for our students."

Lars Ekelöw, ICT Manager, Björknässkolan Municipality of Nacka

Based on the analysis work of school leaders, new targets will apply during the upcoming academic year.

Teachers are responsible for ensuring that all pupils can exercise real influence over working methods and the content of their education, and staff also ensures that this influence increases with age and maturity. Once a month, students from each class get together in a school council with teachers and school leaders to discuss questions or changes that students would like to see implemented.

Key Technology
- *The school uses OneNote as a platform to work together and to share information.*
- *Students make ongoing assessments through digital surveys, and the results are communicated via Office365.*

Improving student outcomes

Students at Björknäs School receive a solid foundation for further studies, and the school is proud of its students' achievements. The use of technology at the school has positively impacted student learning, resulting in more motivated students, more challenging tasks, and an increase in student involvement,

democracy, motivation, and freedom. This in turn has resulted in a higher degree of student participation and a more positive working environment. Students are happier, they work more independently, and they can better organize their school work.

Driving leadership and a culture of innovation

Björknäs School is committed to the future. It recognizes information technology as an integral part of business development and is dedicated to seeking alternative and new approaches to learning. Björknäs School also aims to teach students to manage media and information flows so that they can convert these mediums into knowledge. The school's mission to give each student the opportunity to learn information, communication, and media management.

Educators and leaders at Björknäs School believe that openness and diversity are fundamental to the school's development. With a common forward-looking and long-term e-strategy, the school has created a

For More Information

For more information about Microsoft in Education, visit:
www.microsoft.com/education/ww/solutions/Pages/index.aspx

For more information about Björknäs School, visit:
www.bjorknasskolan.se

clear direction with great potential for future development. To further its goals, Björknäs School has created concrete action plans—contributions are made both individually and by teams distributed throughout the school.

Technology Infrastructure