

About Students Working to Advance Technology (SWAT)...

www.swatweb.net

Since its inception in 1997, SWAT Teams have taken a leading national role in supporting teachers and students with technology needs in their schools and communities. There are hundreds of SWAT Team programs at the elementary, middle, and high school levels throughout the United States and internationally.

A SWAT Team is directed by a motivated teacher, and is comprised of any number of students who wish to form a structured group to advance the technology program at their school. The students increase their level of technical skills, while also assisting other students, teachers and the community with computer skills. SWAT Team training and activities are in alignment with the National Education Technology Standards.

Students are required to fill out a job application and interview to be on the SWAT Team. Examples of specialized roles performed by SWAT Team members include developing and maintaining school Web sites; helping teachers do Internet research; creating school media crews; assisting communities through community service; becoming computer buddies for peers and younger students; and maintaining school computers.

Introducing START School Sites:

Forest Park High School

Woodbridge, VA

In 2002, Forest Park High School was invited to serve as the pilot high school in the Virginia Student Training and Refurbishment Program, a statewide initiative to introduce Virginia's students to the field of IT repair. In its leadership role, Forest Park offers a fully integrated service-learning model including a rich IT curriculum, hands-on training to refurbish and recycle used computers, and a full spectrum of community service opportunities to meet the IT needs of the school's community.

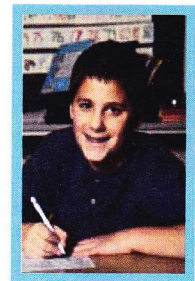


One of the keystones of the Forest Park strategy is the "Bridging the Gap" project, a community technology literacy project that connects students who may lack the financial resources with technology and learning. Students who are members of the SWAT Team receive donated computers from area businesses. The students refurbish the computers and donate them in turn to elementary, middle and high school students who need computers. Over the past three years, 650 computers have been refurbished by 60 SWAT Team students.

E. Garner Magnet Middle School

Garner, NC

The East Garner Magnet Middle School SWAT Team was formed in the Fall semester of 2007. The Team's mission is to promote student leadership training, address technology competencies, and provide outreach to the community through parental involvement, corporate support, and student community service. The SWAT Program is a vibrant part of East Garner's International Baccalaureate Program, which was recently named an International Baccalaureate Program School of Excellence.



Students apply and interview for the SWAT Team, and are accepted based on the level of academics, interest and skills. All of the students are required to partake in community service projects. Some of the achievements of the SWAT Team include training the library's patrons on using Microsoft Office, designing Web sites for teachers, assisting teachers with Internet research, and videotaping news broadcasts.

START is a project of:

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