

Curriculum Corner

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Intentional, Human-Centered Application of AI

I begin this article by stating that I have been fortunate to stand in front of this work. However, my district's AI Committee deserves all the accolades and recognition!

The Woodstown-Piles Grove Regional School District has led in the intentional, human-centered application of Artificial Intelligence (AI) over the past two years. Beginning with the establishment of our district AI Committee in the spring of 2024 and culminating in the completion of the NJDOE AI Innovation in Schools grant this past March, we have concentrated our efforts on the ethical and strategic implementation of AI while ensuring that we "keep the human in the loop."

Our journey began with the formulation of a District Use of AI stance to guide our policies, procedures, and overall approach to AI integration. To initiate our integration, we embarked on a pilot program in the spring of 2025, involving 10 teachers and 300 students from our middle and high schools. Aligning with our commitment to intentional, ethical, and strategic human-centered AI use, we selected an AI platform that provided strong safety and privacy ratings and its user-friendly entry points for newcomers to AI. While we do not impose strict limitations on the AI platforms available for staff use, we emphasize the importance of adhering to our non-negotiables and other considerations when providing inputs into any AI platform.

Recently, we expanded our integration of AI through the implementation of our NJDOE AI Grant. This initiative focused on providing professional development for teachers and developing comprehensive policies, procedures, and use cases for AI, resulting in a handbook and a website repository of resources. Additionally, we conducted outreach to our K-8 teachers, students in grades 6-8, and the broader community. These efforts

underscore our commitment to both internal and external stakeholders and emphasize the importance of a human-driven, human-centered approach to AI use.

As we look ahead to the upcoming school year and beyond, our focus remains on sustaining it. While districts may have varying levels of resources, we are positioning ourselves as leaders in AI integration and in our commitment to investing in our staff. We are dedicated to ongoing professional development for our team, enhancing AI literacy for both staff and students, and collaborating with neighboring districts and others across the state. Our goal is to assist them in effectively integrating AI and emerging technologies into their unique contexts and stakeholder environments.

In closing, we remain grounded in our core values and in the belief that we must always serve people first, ensuring that every step we take with AI strengthens our ability to see, hear, and support every student while promising every Wolverine a future!