**Brownwood ISD Technology Board Report**

**1 November, 2023**

**Introduction**

The purpose of this report is to provide an update on projects the Technology Department has completed recently and an insight into others we are implementing.

**District Computing Devices**

BISD Technology Department currently supports more than 5600 computing devices in addition to approximately 1,000 other devices, including Promethean boards, printers, document cameras, network, keyless access, intercom, and surveillance systems. We have seen a reduction in classroom PC needs as more are adopting iPad and Chromebooks in the Pre-K/2nd grade and 3rd-8th respectively.

2nd grade core tested subjects have been transitioned to Chromebooks. Pre-K & 1st grade will eventually adopt touch screen versions of Chromebooks in place of iPads as those devices age out.

An approximate overview of available computing devices is as follows:

HS Student Chromebooks - 1200
Teacher MacBook Airs - 450      Student Laptop Cart Computers - 400
Student Classroom Desktops - 240      Computer Lab Desktops - 410
Library Desktops - 24      Food Service Desktops - 16
Office/Nurse Desktops - 40      Student and Teacher iPads – 1800
Promethean ActivBoards - 90      Promethean ActivPanels - 60

## 2023-2024 School Year Technology Update

**Online Testing**

Chromebooks/ChromeOS remain the preferred STAAR testing platform. As such, we will continue to expand distribution to more and more classrooms. We recently determined Google has made Chromebook OS available for installation on nontraditional devices and have since begun placing previously outdated or discontinued student Mac books back into service as Chromebooks. This is huge savings to the District!

**District Safety and Security**

All campus surveillance systems have been upgraded to new, cloud based, more user-friendly systems. There are a few blind spots that have been identified on a few campuses. A survey has been completed to make adjustments; installation should be completed in the coming weeks.

- High School and Middle School: Complete rip and replace. Several existing IP cameras were recovered for use at Elementary campuses.
- Coggin, East & Woodland Heights: We will continue to use their existing IP cameras. Those have been added to the overall cloud-based system via a storage/cloud connector appliance.
- Northwest: A new system was installed in the Fall of 2022.
- Additional cameras are planned for Coggin, Woodland, East.

**Cyber-Security**

After Christmas break, we are scheduled to begin the onboarding process of the Texas RSOC (Regional Security Operations Center) hosted by Angelo State University. The program will provide free network traffic monitoring to combat phishing, malware, ransomware. The system uses real time monitoring by staff members and AI to detect patterns and further prevent network intrusion and harmful attachments.

See attached for more information.

**Technology Staff**

Recent changes made in the Technology Department:

We continue to wish Barbara Huber all the best since her retirement in June and would like to welcome our 2 new Campus Technicians:

Will Hancock and Richard Fierria.

Will is the High School campus technician, previously with Bangs ISD.

Richard is the campus technician for Northwest Elementary and Alternative High School.

**Current and Upcoming Projects**

- Continued expansion of the 1:1 classroom sets for Chromebook/iPad beyond the Core subjects and Promethean Active Panel platform throughout PreK-3rd grades.
- Upon completion of the district external door re-core project, we will be installing more keyless access where required.
- Begin preparations for replacing many frontline staff computers over the next 18 months as Windows 10 reaches termination and is replaced by Windows 11. Much of the PC hardware will no longer be supported on Win11.

**Closing**

The Brownwood ISD Technology Department is dedicated to helping the district become the best it can be while providing state-of-the-art resources and services. We will continue to improve the equipment and services offered to the staff and students of Brownwood ISD.

Please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions, concerns, comments, or suggestions.

Thank you.


Jimmy Fisher Sr.

Director of Technology