Listed are duties and projects worked on by the Technology Department…

Worked closely with Ramtech and Sentry security throughout the month, helping with determining new building security camera placement, classroom whiteboard placement, and classroom projector placement. Also addressed missing phone/data drop locations which Sentry Security agreed to resolve.

We also took on the role of determining classroom/lab furniture for the new building, up to and including taking accurate and detailed measurements for Tech Lab computer tables/countertops, general lab computer tables, classroom computer tables, and other furniture. The initial classroom/lab design we did had to be taken into consideration as well while determining furniture type and size.

Met with Barry Cariaga, owner of C-IT Solutions from Del Rio to discuss the bell system for new building. Mr. Cariaga is also the on-site supervisor for the cabling crew and has lent his expertise to this department on numerous occasions pertaining to our network and site readiness for the fiber line. Which brings me to discuss the development of the fiber line project. Our main Cisco router was deemed inadequate at the last minute and needed firmware updated. That router originally came with 3 year SMARTnet coverage/support which expired in 2009. The only way to gain access to Cisco firmware to apply these updates, is to have this coverage. We had to get a Cisco reseller (Mr. Cariaga) to take our router and place it under his company's equipment so he could purchase the SMARTnet coverage and gain access to the updates for us. This process is currently still taking place and until the router has these updates applied, we will not be able to switch to the fiber connection.

Worked closely with staff and teachers to ensure the online portion of the STAAR testing went as planned. No connectivity issues reported and testing went without a hitch.

Gathered info on out-of-control printing costs and are seeking a better and more cost effective solution to printing. Also seeking alternative Smartboard/Interactive boards solutions by utilizing new Interactive projectors which provide same functionality with a regular whiteboard and at half the cost.

Met with ATT for 3 days resolving internet outage at DAEP and Bus Barn. Ultimately came down to switched port at ATT head office. The buildings thus had to be reconfigured and we eliminated the use and integration of old/outdated servers.

Gathered info on new building equipment needs and submitted wishlist. Also while analyzing goals, we submitted a wishlist for this coming school year. It's a big number but is more of a "needslist" than a wishlist. It will be hard to replace a lot of our equipment in our server room in one year, but a majority of the problems we run into and will eventually run into, will have to do with the fact that equipment has reached end of life and will no longer be supported. This pertains to software as well. On this note might I add that this has been a demanding year for this department, and as things are easier said than done, what could have been done gradually over the course of several years cannot be done in just one.

These are some of the main points we have focused on and does not include the repairs and fixes we handle on a daily basis.

Michael Munoz – Technology Manager