



Brownwood ISD Technology Board Report March 14, 2022

Introduction

The purpose of this report is to give an update on projects that the Technology Department has been working on recently and what we have planned for the school year.

District Computing Devices

Our technology department currently supports approximately 5343 computing devices in addition to well over 900 other devices such as Promethean boards, printers, document cameras, and network related equipment.

An approximate overview of available computing devices is as follows:

HS Student MacBook Airs – 550	Library Desktops - 24
HS Student Chromebooks - 625	Food Service Desktops - 16
Teacher MacBook Airs - 465	Office/Nurse Desktops - 40
Student Laptop Cart Computers - 985	Student and Teacher iPads – 1630
Student Classroom Desktops - 480	Promethean ActivBoards - 89
Computer Lab Desktops - 410	Promethean ActivPanels - 36

2021-2022 School Year Technology Update

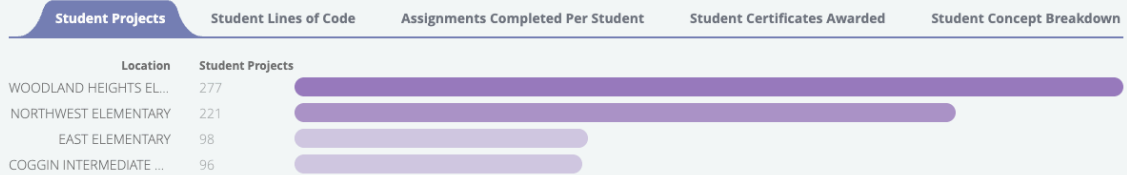
Software Applications

Educational software is a crucial component when it comes to learning material and resources. Different programs are used for things such as coding, creating digital media/content, and supplementing traditional areas of learning such as reading, writing, and math. Instructional Technology works with teachers to help them implement this in their classrooms and they do an incredible job. Students are being exposed to new technologies and resources that were not available to them in the past.

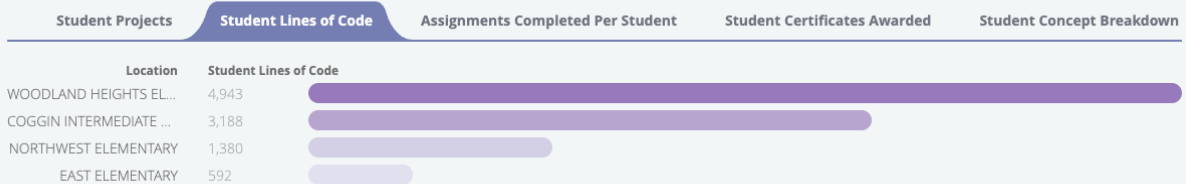
One example of software that introduces students to coding is Tynker. Tynker offers block-based coding challenges and courses for students in elementary through high school. It prepares students to transition into real world programming languages like JavaScript and Python. It's amazing to see the engagement, especially in the elementary grade levels.



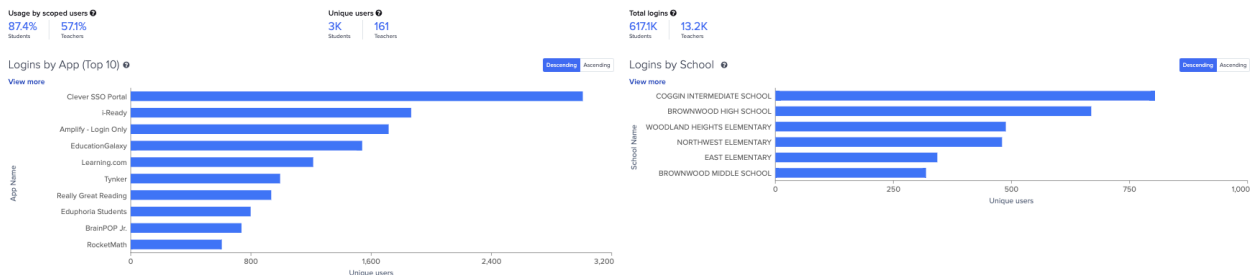
Top Locations



Top Locations



Instructional Technology also works with teachers to determine what programs are being utilized and which are the most beneficial. Brownwood ISD offers a variety of programs that are heavily used in the classrooms to assist in instruction.



Online Testing

The state has been working towards getting all districts to use their online testing platform. There are many challenges that come with this and Brownwood ISD has been working on addressing them for many years. During the past few weeks, the district has been participating in online field tests with great success. Our wireless infrastructure is now capable of handling the massive load and our devices are working great with the current testing software. Chromebooks and iPads are supported which gives our district the ability



to easily manage the testing software and to be able to supply a large number of students testing capabilities simultaneously.

Additional Classroom Equipment

Brownwood ISD continues to keep technology in the classrooms up to date by replacing aging equipment at the end of their lifecycle and adding additional equipment when needed. Desktop computers in classrooms and labs are in the process of being swapped out, as are projectors and document cameras where needed.

20 iPads were added for Special Education last month. There was also a need for additional Promethean Panels/ActivBoards at some campuses. These were added last month as well with the help of the Maintenance Department.

District Safety and Security

Two members of the Technology Department have been revamping the intercom and bell systems at the campuses. Their ingenuity increased the capabilities of the systems with minimal financial needs. Announcements and alerts can now be made from any phone on the campus as well as on the go using the mobile app. Bell systems have been upgraded to use a computer and dedicated software instead of antiquated mechanical timers. This also allows for a built in emergency alert system. Their efforts increased the safety and security at the campuses and as a result, they were awarded the Golden Donut Award by the district SRO's.

Current and Upcoming Projects

One of the projects the Technology Department has been focusing heavily on is the reorganization of technology equipment for Project Neighborhood. A lot of this will depend on the final number of classrooms and how they are distributed across the campuses. We want to ensure that the current resources available to the grade levels and classrooms is not degraded if/when the change takes place. Some of the top priorities being planned for is redistribution of iPads in elementary classrooms, Promethean ActivPanels/Boards in all PK-6 grade classrooms, and redistributing Chromebook carts that are currently available for 4-6 grade classes. There may also be a need for additional equipment since some grade levels will be spread across multiple campuses that had traditionally been housed at one location with shared resources there.



Closing

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

Please feel free to reach out with any questions, concerns, or comments.

Thank you.