

Technology and Communications Department Update



February 3, 2026

EMBRACE EMPOWER EXCEL *Each Child Each Day*



Today's Presentation

Communications:

- Evolving communications at D76 through ParentSquare.
- Maintaining a strong presence across multiple communication channels.

Technology:

- Preparing or present for the future with AI (use better phrase) AI Focus Group, policies, ensuring we have apps and practices in place.
- Ensuring sustainability, innovation and safety (Infrastructure updates and end user practices (Long term planning)).

D76

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COMMUNICATIONS





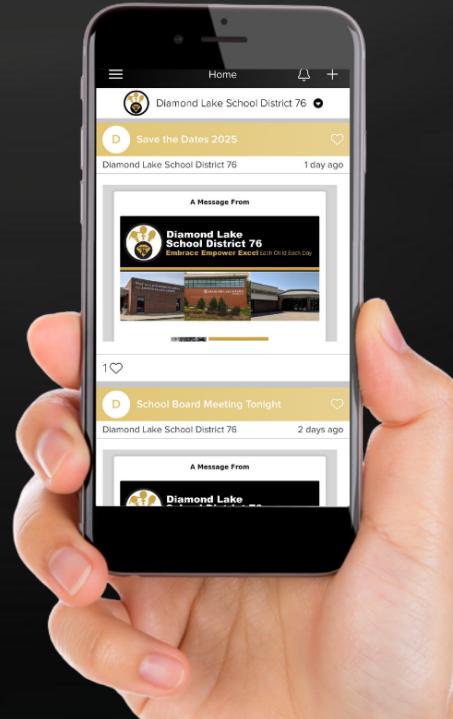
Year 1 with ParentSquare

From District, School to Staff

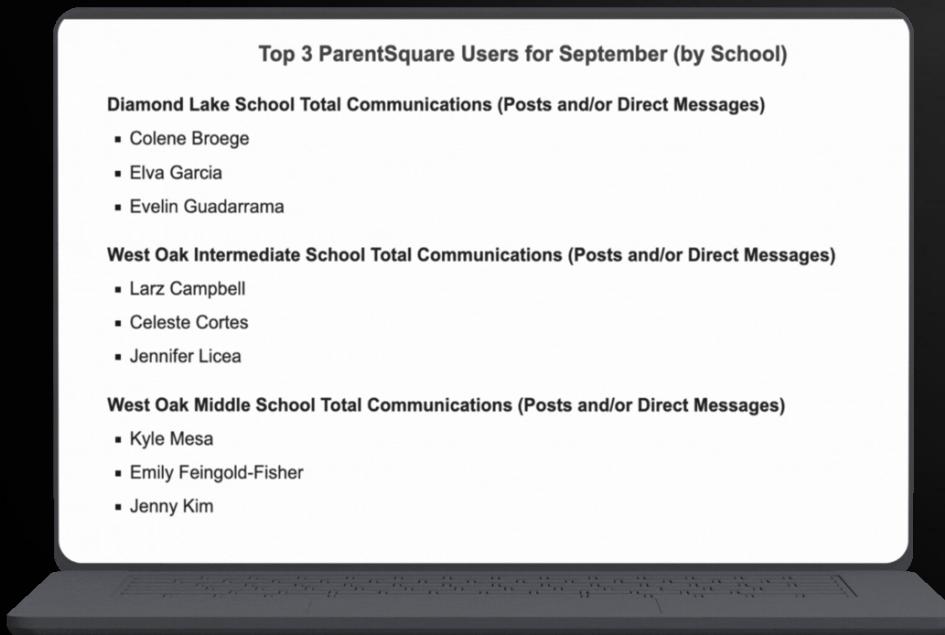
- Centralized, managed, updated, smart and diverse way to communicate.

Benefits Thus Far

- Unified staff communication system
- Can be smart or simple for any users device
- Automatic translations
- Provide a common platform for for D76 and our partners (ie. PTO)
- Transparency for school administrators (like the original Facebook feed).



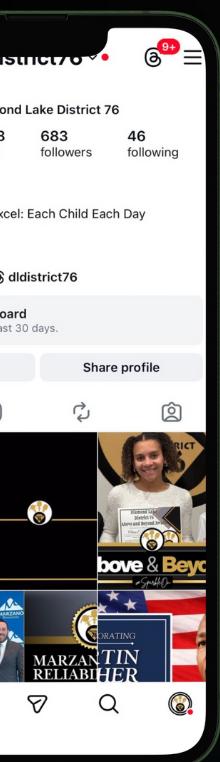
Keeping Our Presence Strong While Celebrating Our Continued Connection With Home



MAINTAINING A STRONG PRESENCE ACROSS MULTIPLE COMMUNICATION CHANNELS



Communications: Noteworthy Metrics



Social Media Growth: January to January Comparison

Facebook: 966 Followers 10%
Instagram: 684 Followers 11%
YouTube: 321 Subscribers 13%
LinkedIn: 245 Followers 21%
X: 640 Followers -1%

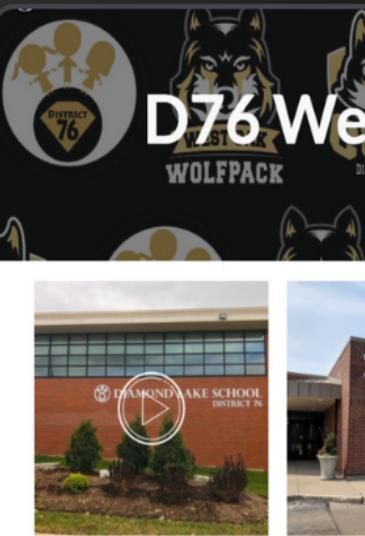
Overall social media presence showed strong growth since last January, with notable gains on LinkedIn, YouTube, Instagram, and Facebook, while X remained relatively flat with a slight decline.

Family Weekly Updates:

January to January Comparison*

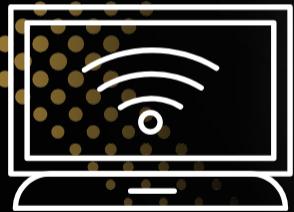
DLS: 1.13 Minutes +.06 minutes
WOIS: .98 Minutes -0.30 minutes
WOMS: 1.15 Minutes -0.32 minutes

From January to January, engagement time remained essentially unchanged across all three schools, marking a consistent and stable amount of time parents typically spend viewing weekly updates.

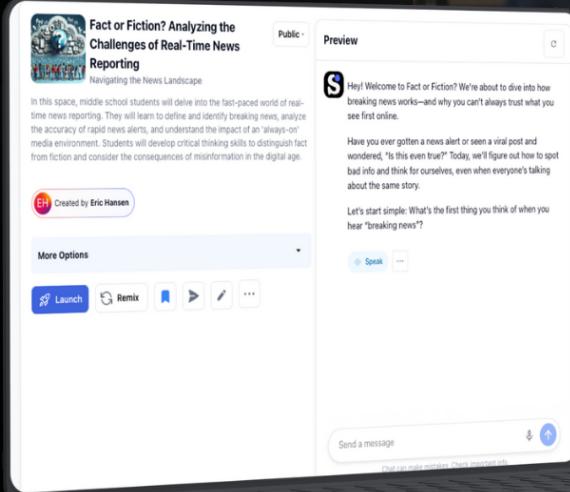


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TECHNOLOGY



Student Experiences with AI



The screenshot shows a digital learning interface. At the top, there's a navigation bar with a user icon, a search bar, and a menu. Below that is a section titled 'Fact or Fiction? Analyzing the Challenges of Real-Time News Reporting' with a sub-section 'Navigating the News Landscape'. The main content area has a 'Public - Preview' button. A message from a user named 'S' reads: 'Hey! Welcome to Fact or Fiction? We're about to dive into how breaking news works—and why you can't always trust what you see first online.' Below this, another message says: 'Have you ever gotten a news alert or seen a viral post and wondered, "Is this even true?" Today, we'll figure out how to spot bad info and think for ourselves, even when everyone's talking about the same story.' At the bottom, there's a 'Send a message' input field and a 'More Options' dropdown. On the right, there are buttons for 'Launch', 'Remix', 'Share', 'Edit', and '...'. The overall theme is educational, focusing on media literacy and critical thinking.



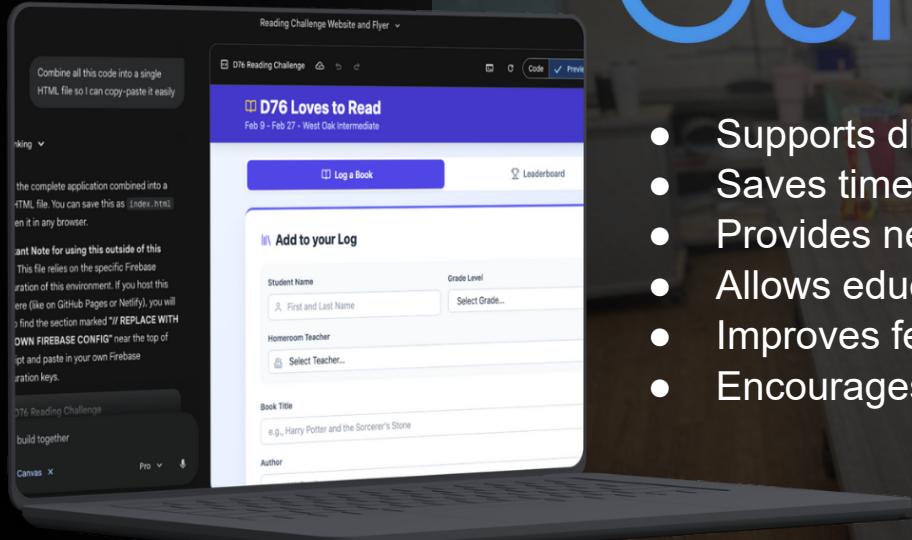
school 

- Helps personalize learning for each student
- Provides immediate feedback to support learning
- Allows teachers more time to work with students
- Increases efficiencies to develop educational resources, activities, ideas for all stakeholders.

Staff Experiences with AI

Gemini

- Supports differentiated and personalized instruction
- Saves time on planning and administrative tasks
- Provides new instructional ideas and resources
- Allows educators to focus more on teaching and relationships
- Improves feedback quality and turnaround time
- Encourages innovation in teaching practices



Guidelines and Support

- Ensure student safety and data privacy
- Model and implement ethical and responsible use
- Purposeful use of AI in our educational environment
- Focus on core applications
- Evolve with our world's innovation as continued lifelong learners.
- Yearly Focus Group



**Diamond Lake
School District 76**
Embrace Empower Excel Each Child Each Day

AI in Education: Guidelines for D76 Staff

Introduction

Purpose of the Document

This document aims to provide educators with insights, practical advice, and ethical considerations for integrating Artificial Intelligence (AI) into the educational environment. It serves as guidance for D76 staff to understand and leverage AI to enhance teaching and learning experiences.

Overview of AI in Education

Artificial Intelligence, a rapidly evolving technology, has significant implications for education. It offers innovative ways to personalize learning, automate administrative tasks, and enrich educational resources, promising to transform traditional teaching methodologies.

What is Generative AI?

Generative AI refers to a type of artificial intelligence that focuses on creating new content, data, or solutions. Unlike traditional AI, which analyzes and interprets existing information, generative AI can **GENERATE** entirely new, original outputs. This can include things like:

- Text Generation
- Image and Art Creation

Ensuring Sustainability, Innovation and Safety

Infrastructure Improvements

- Aligned with the District Technology Long Term Strategic Plan and priorities.
- Developed using industry best practices and current research, in collaboration with our managed service provider.
- Designed to be fiscally responsible, scalable, and appropriate for a district of our size while strengthening reliability, security, and performance.

Proactively upgrade end of life hardware according to the planned life cycle timeline.

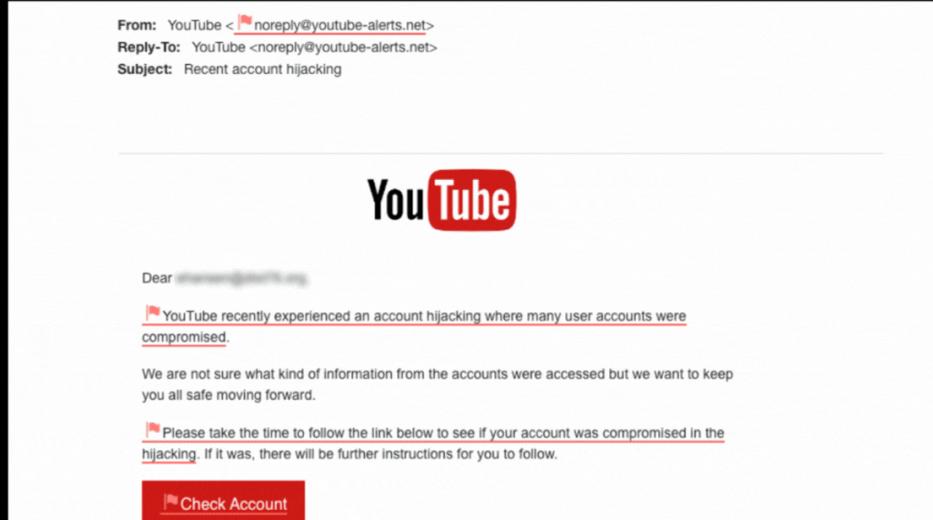
Completed Projects

- Servers
- Firewall
- ISP Renewal

Future Projects and Reviews

- Staff Laptops
- Wireless Infrastructure
- Managed Detection and Response
- Backup Disaster Recovery

Infrastructure Protects Nothing If The People Using It Are Unprepared



Essentials:

- Yearly professional development
- Continuous social engineering simulations and result reviews
- Documentation of users who need additional guidance
- Invest in cybersecurity services and practices

Questions & Feedback

