

KEITH ZAMUDIO
Director of Technology Board Report
June 14, 2017

2017-2018 GOALS FOR THE TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT

- Establish a CSD owned data link between Mt. Eccles Elementary School and Cordova Jr./Sr. High School as allowed by E-Rate's Second Modernization Order.
- Increase CSD's bandwidth to accommodate our 1 to 1 laptop program.
- Expand our consortium partnership with Cordova Public Library for E-Rate subsidies.

INSTRUCTIONAL TECHNOLOGY

Senior Laptop Purchase

CSD's IT Department updated, re-imaged and sold graduating seniors their student issued laptop. All seniors opted to purchase many choosing to upgrade the laptop. All Senior laptops were ready for distribution by May 26, 2017.

Student Laptop Check In

CSD's IT Department has successfully collected all Jr./Sr. high school student laptops for the summer break. I would like to express my appreciation to the staff and students. They made the process of check in go well.

Student laptops, including the laptops used by the elementary students, undergo diagnostic testing to determine that all hardware components are functional. Those laptops that are found needing repair are sent to an Apple authorized repair center. Additionally, laptops are given a good visual inspection and cleaning.

When laptops have passed inspection and/or are repaired, laptops are re-imaged with updated operating system software and updated/upgraded with the productivity software that the district provides its staff and students to administrate their duties.

Though I summarized this process with a few short paragraphs, this process takes most of our available time in June and August to get laptops ready including re-imaging. Creating the image for the laptops is a detailed and time-consuming process. This image contains all of the software licensing, drivers and configurations for printers, network settings and individual account profiles. This is the busiest time of the year for CSD's IT Department.

Network Infrastructure Support

During the month of July, dates to be determined, Jim Newman of NorthStar Networking will travel to CSD to perform on-site site maintenance and enhancement of servers and systems comprising CSD's local area network.

The services included, but are not limited to the following:

- Install, configure and test comprehensive multi-server data backup system.
- Redistribute data switches on network for better utilization.
- Disassemble, inspect, clean and repair servers in CSD server room.
- Train CSD technology professionals in server-side hardware and software configurations and management.
- Address any other technology needs which manifest themselves during above listed activities or determined by CSD Technology Director, Keith Zamudio.

Jim Newman is a valued member of the team and is instrumental in not only maintaining our current level of services, but in troubleshooting and solving many of the complex problems that arise in day-to-day operations. Our goal is to minimize network disruptions of service. Jim has provided guidance, support and insight as we provide students and staff with school equipment, establish digital learning environments, and endeavor to help our stakeholders understand and manage their digital presence.

CSD IT District Operations

Information technologies are an essential K-12 resource for CSD student learning. School staff at all levels have become dependent upon the use of information technologies to administrate their duties. The use of Internet resources has become integrated in our day-to-day workflow.

Currently, CSD leverages numerous network and Internet resources that are an integral part of a day's workflow for staff and students. Aside from our staff and student email resources, we routinely use the Internet to gather, organize and share information. It is not until the Internet is down that we realize how dependent we have become.

Some of the resources that are Internet based include our student information system, PowerSchool. Eduphoria is a tool for teacher and staff assessment, and provides a tool to survey students, staff and the community. Follett hosts our library catalog and we share this license subscription with the Cordova City Library. Alio hosts the school's financial records and provides our staff the ability to submit leave requests and access their employee financial records. Teachers subscribe to a variety of online resources to facilitate and support classroom learning in most curricular areas. CSD provides classroom teachers a course management system called Moodle that allows staff to put their curriculum online so that students have 24/7 access. Additionally, staff members are using Google Suites (formally Google Drive) and in particular Google Classroom which is similar to Moodle. We subscribe to a media content delivery system, Discovery Education, with a caching server that helps us utilize our Internet's bandwidth. Staff expanded classroom presentation resources to include Edmodo and NearPod.

To support CSD's 1 to 1 laptop learning environments, the IT Department maintains safe and secure network environments including integration services to build and deploy an upgraded/updated OS image for staff and student laptops. CSD's network manages computers, network accounts, and network resources such as MAP testing, learning software and Internet resources. All CSD staff, classified and certified, has a computer to administrate their duties.

CSD established a Munki server that has been in production since the 2013 - 14 school year. Munki is a software management installation system that allows students and staff to update their assigned laptops quickly and easily. Munki allows for custom installations of software that meet individual student, staff and classroom learning needs.

Each staff and student is issued a Google Suites account for collaboration. Google Suites is a file storage and synchronization service created and managed by Google. Google Suites allows staff and students to store documents in the cloud, share files, and edit documents with collaborators 24/7. Google Suites includes the productivity suite of Apps - Google Docs, Sheets, Slides, and Classroom that permits collaborative editing of documents, spreadsheets, presentations, drawings, forms, and more. Each year CSD staff and students increase their use of these resources. Google Suites accounts are not computer specific.

Information technology has transformed how we conduct our day-to-day business, communicate with one another and expanded our options to learn, work and play. Additionally, information technology has impacted our global perspective. It is not unusual for CSD staff and students to interact with people and support systems that cross physical and political boundaries.

Enough cannot be said for the need of ongoing, sustainable professional development. In the past CSD has hosted weeklong summer tech trainings. These trainings have diminished due to funding constraints, but we continue to train at every opportunity. CSD has been fortunate to send staff to the Alaska Society for Technology in Education's annual conference (ASTE), Alaska's premier educational technology conference. ASTE has been influential in enabling our staff and students expand their tech vision, integration, and capacity. But, we need to provide our staff with more training opportunities. Often our staff trains themselves.

As I have indicated in the past, the evaluation of instructional technology is difficult at best. Aside from its relative newness in education, instructional technology is a moving target. From desktops to laptops to tablets and smart phones, educators and educational institutions find themselves on a steep learning curve, however, I am confident that CSD offers their students and staff a rare, valuable, and empowering gift. CSD stakeholders will continue to reap the benefits of their use of computer-based technologies as learning tools for the rest of their lives. The iPads that are checked out to the board is an example of self-training, as well as enabling your information communications literacy skills.

CSD endeavors to ensure that all students and staff have the capacity to utilize information and communication technologies. All of the identified services listed above are not without their management issues. The number one job Curtis and I perform on a day-to-day basis is Help Desk. CSD's IT Department endeavors to be efficient, timely and patient.

CURRENT PROJECTS/CONSIDERATIONS

- Continue to manage CSD's website
- Update student photos in PowerSchool
- Configuring upgraded web filter
- Upgrade and updating CSD's Managed Software Center
- Upgrade and updating CSD's modular system deployment
- Deploying Mobile Device Management server

UPCOMING PROJECTS/CONSIDERATIONS

- Begin work on E-Rate application for 2018.

OTHER