

Technology Department Report Everett Holm

Phone system upgrades complete

We upgraded software and capabilities on our phone systems during teacher convention time. The main goal was to enable our phone system capabilities to migrate to SIP trunk line technology from the PRI line technology. The district currently maintains 2 PRI lines at a monthly cost of \$1500 pre-e-rate plus the associated long-distance charges. Each of these PRI lines has 23 circuits so the district can handle 46 simultaneous phone calls between the 2 PRI lines. We have some reports and know that 15 of these circuits are rarely, if ever utilized. We will implement 35 SIP lines in the plan which includes the standard telephone service as we know it and includes long distance. Our telephone line and long-distance savings will net out to an approximate \$2800-\$3500 per months savings to the district maintaining the same capabilities we know today. Is SIP trunk lines a proven technology to migrate too? Yes, for several years now your long distance and cellular phone calls have been carried by SIP lines across the internet and this move simply brings the technology the last mile for the school district to take advantage of the associated quality and cost savings. Will end users know the difference? The change will require 10-digit dialing by users, other than this small change, phone users will not know the difference. We should see full implementation and cost savings by the January billing periods for our telephone services.

Other capabilities

Calling an extension and ringing that individuals' extension and cell phone at the same time. The user can decide which phone to take the call on if they are in their office. If they are out and about in their building, they can choose to take the call on the cell phone.

High School iPads

A lot of planning, dotting I's, crossing T's, training with staff and our first student iPads have started rolling out to students. We look forward to the additional instructional and creativity capabilities for our students in addition to having a device they can continue their learning journey at home, collaborating at a friend's house or on the school bus. One of the first projects I've heard about is a student who just turned 18 and is going to document her journey in registering to vote along with a little comic relief hitting some pot holes along the way. We hope to share the video at a future board meeting.





Kajeet Take Home Internet

Our students have started checking out the Kajeet Smart Spots to have internet access at home. One of our students has given it a *big thumbs up* as she no longer needs to hang out at her different friend's homes to complete her Montana Digital Academy assignments.

The Smart Spots are checked out to students for the evening the same way they would check out a library book. Each evening, the student is able to use 500 megabytes of data for their school work. This data allotment works well as students can research and their

typed assignments on their iPads sync up the next day when they connect to the school WiFi. The SmartSpots also have time restrictions and cannot be used from 11pm to 6am to encourage the student to get a good night's sleep and again from 8am to 3:30pm during the school week to encourage the student to attend school and check the smart spot back in. Each Smart Spot includes a carrying case, the Smart Spot and a charging cable to keep things protected and charged up.

