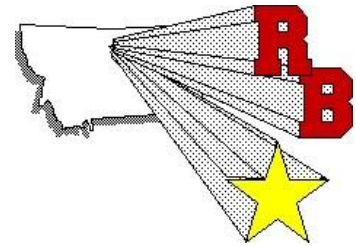


Technology Department

February 11, 2019

IT Director – Robert Parker



IT has been busy with testing the last month. WIDA testing concluded the end of January and Interim and SBAC testing are set to begin this week. Testing will be going on throughout February. Testing will be taking place mostly on iPads and laptops with a few testing the computer labs. The iPads and laptops are updating the latest secure browser for SBAC. There have been a few hiccups related to our network but these are getting resolved.

IT is also in the middle of e-rate requisitions. Our districts Form 470 was completed a few weeks ago and in another week or two we will be submitting our Form 471 and taking bids for the equipment we have requested, once we get approval. We have requested 21 new switches, 51 new access points, 17K feet of CAT6 cable, 2250 feet of fiber cable, and various fiber and ethernet terminators. E-rate approved category 2 equipment is discounted 80%. In this e-rate cycle, we have roughly \$63k remaining in our e-rate budgets. As this is the last year of the cycle, this is our last chance to spend the monies in our budget. There is no guarantee what funds will be available (if any) next e-rate cycle. This equipment is all for a complete overhaul and upgrade to the district's network infrastructure and will keep the district current for the next 5 to 10 years.

IT recently attended a META meeting in Havre and learned that the Belgrade school district live streams their games free of charge to the public on YouTube (use this link: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCfiVum0vGNkXSwEziKo_nsw to view their streams). This was news to all the IT administrators in attendance as it was our understanding all streaming had to be through NFHS as they have an agreement with MHS. We are currently inquiring about this and it may possibly be a breakout session offered at our annual META meeting upcoming next month in Helena. I know that our community would be very happy if live streaming was made available at no charge. Especially now that playoffs are just around the corner and it is currently 20 degrees below zero outside.

IT has ordered 10 new cabinets from Mr. Coleman's activities group for 60 new iPads and 40 new laptops on hand, with some cabinets remaining for continued expansion over the summer and next year. These devices will be going to support grades K-8.