



## **Brownwood ISD Technology Board Report**

**1 November, 2022**

### **Introduction**

The purpose of this report is to provide an update on projects the Technology Department has completed recently and an insight to others we are implementing.

### **District Computing Devices**

BISD Technology Department currently supports approximately 5600 computing devices in addition to approximately 1,000 other devices, including Promethean boards, printers, document cameras, network, and intercom equipment. We have seen a reduction in classroom PC needs as more are adopting iPad and Chromebooks in the Pre-K/2nd grade and 3rd-8th respectively.

An approximate overview of available computing devices is as follows:

HS Student MacBook Airs – 300  
Teacher MacBook Airs - 450  
Student Classroom Desktops - 270  
Library Desktops - 24  
Office/Nurse Desktops - 40  
Promethean ActivBoards - 93

HS Student Chromebooks - 885  
Student Laptop Cart Computers - 400  
Computer Lab Desktops - 410  
Food Service Desktops - 16  
Student and Teacher iPads – 1800  
Promethean ActivPanels - 40

## **2022-2023 School Year Technology Update**

### **Online Testing**

As of last year, the state implemented their new online testing platform. While there were many challenges, we are happy to report a significant improvement from previous years testing scenarios. With the upgrades made to the district wireless network and the adoption of Chromebook as the preferred platform, we can now test larger numbers of students and campuses with confidence.

### **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/where needed. As mentioned above, Desktop computer sets in classrooms throughout the Elementary levels are being reduce/replace in favor of Chromebooks and iPads. Our department, working with the Principals in grades PreK-8th, have developed a roadmap to provide each Core testing subject with 1:1 classroom sets of Chromebook (3rd-8th) or iPad (Prek-2nd). We are experiencing a slowdown in deliveries due to ongoing supply chain restraints, but we are confident these additional sets should be in place by Thanksgiving break.

We will also be adding at least 1 Promethean Active Panel mobile unit to each Library at the Elementary campuses where these boards are not yet available in classrooms. Our hope is these will serve as a pilot to further determine their use and/or need at those campuses while we continue to plan and budget for them in the future.

### **District Safety and Security**

BISD Technology Department assisted Mr. Bonsal and our campus SRO team's adoption of 'Raptor Mobile Alert' by implementing single sign ability via our current Active Directory and Ascender user database management systems. This will allow the staff to utilize the same login credentials they use already, and not have to maintain another.

Technology Department recently completed revamping the intercom and bell systems at the campuses. We continue to add classroom speakers and horns where needed since the Neighborhood School realignment and expansion.

We have been collaborating with providers to develop and implement camera and door security systems at Northwest Elementary to bring that campus in line with the others. While it can be a slow process, our goal is to provide a state-of-the-art system for the security and safety for our students and staff. This new system also serves as a model for future upgrades to those systems throughout the district. While our other secondary campuses received recent upgrades and improvements, the High School and Middle School campus will require the addition or replacement of several camera models as those continue to age out.

### **Athletics**

We recently increased the bandwidth available at Gordon Wood Stadium with 500MB fiber internet connection. Due to the layout of the facilities, we had the connection to Harris Broadband terminated at the south endzone field house. We then utilized additional equipment to create wireless a point to multipoint connections from there to the home and visitor press boxes, with Wi-Fi access points and the necessary Ethernet hardlines required for staff to stream, edit, and broadcast where necessary.

## **Technology Staff**

Recent changes made in the Technology Department:

Since the Summer, Mark Stanley has taken the position of Technology Director at Wall ISD.

I wanted to add a special note of thanks and acknowledgement of Mark's years of service to BISD and the many accomplishments in the district and our department under his direction.

With the full support of our Admin Staff, I am happy to announce the promotion of Matthew Lowrey to the position of Network Administrator. Matt will also continue in his role as the High School campus technician.

## **Current and Upcoming Projects**

- Continued expansion of the 1:1 classroom sets for Chromebook/iPad beyond the Core subjects. We are 90% of the way there and hope to be 100% before start of 2023 school year.
- Expansion of the Promethean Active Panel platform throughout PreK-3rd grades.
- The 2023 graduating class will be the last year we provide the MacBook Air platform to students. Beyond that, we will continue to provide Chromebooks to incoming High School students on a 1:1 basis. The Chromebook has proven to be a great platform in the areas of usability, compatibility with the State online testing requirements, portability, and cost savings. The amount saved in moving from MacBook to Chromebook has and will continue to allow us to expand the use of these needed devices throughout the district.

## **Closing**

The Brownwood ISD Technology Department is dedicated to helping the district become the best it can be while providing state of the art resources and services. 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, comments or suggestions.

Thank you.

Jimmy Fisher Sr.

Director of Technology