

Technology Division 2013-14

Data Processing

TAC Gradebook 3.01 new features and new for secondary schools. Teacher Access Center (TAC) will be the grade book used by all DISD teachers this year. TAC has had a big upgrade over the summer. The 2014 school year will be the first year secondary schools will use TAC. Also, new this year, teachers will use TAC to refer discipline to the campus administrators. Teachers will have to be trained on the latest version of TAC.

Home Access Center (HAC) will be used by the parents & students to view student grades/attendance/registration information and discipline. Parents must have an email account to access HAC. The campus is responsible for setting up the parent access. Visually HAC has had a major upgrade over the summer.

Additional standards based report cards new for (3rd grade). Data Processing continues to work with C&I for the smooth transition from concept to electronic completion on this next grade level. We have shorten the development process by using a contractor to develop the report cards in COGNOS report writer. This will give DISD staff the ability to edit the framework of the report cards directly.

Infosnap (Online Registration) Students new to Denton ISD will use Info Snap to enroll as a new student

- a) Parents will complete the registration information online
- b) Parents will make an appointment with the student's zoned campus to visit the campus to finalize the enrollment process.
- c) Parents who complete the online enrollment process will not need to manually complete enrollment forms. Enrollment documents will prepopulate for new students.

Principals will have the ability to create special reports out of Info Snap. For access and training for Info Snap please contact Carolynn Sprabeary.

ESchool Mobile Admin APP is being installed the week of July 29th so we do not have the screens as of this writing. This app will give every administrator, office staff and any district staff who currently has a login into ESchool+ software. This will be the mobile connection into student information for DISD staff only. The company is also working toward getting a mobile app for TAC (gradebook for teachers) and HAC (app for parents)

Networked Services (Network, Helpdesk and Repair)

Procurement of employee software for Microsoft Office 2010 or newer and Windows 8. All employees will have the ability to download their own single copy of Windows 7 or 8 and Office 2010 or 2013. The link is accessible from the For Staff tab on the district webpage. There will be a very small fee for the download of either software. This is the same contract the colleges have for staff and students. We did not purchase the feature for student download as it is currently cost prohibitive.

New HEAT software upgrade The principals have already received the upgrade information. The software now auto fills the logged in user info and helps the technology department and the HEAT user to better track current tickets that have been submitted.

Upgrade Windows XP to Windows 7 to district computers This will be done by April 30. We are trying to get to all district computers that can be upgraded to windows 7. Microsoft is creating the “End of Life” of XP. There will be no fixes after April 30. This will create a hardship IF network changes are made and the XP machines do not work or desktop instructional software no longer supports XP. There are several processes that no longer support the browser that XP has. We are about 35% complete with the migrations across the district. This will continue into the school year.

Internet moving to 1 GB from 300MB This project is part of the wireless infrastructure upgrade. The firewall and high capacity routers were part of the wireless connectivity. All of the equipment has been installed at Technology as will be live the week of July 29th.

Microsoft Endpoint Security on all desktops As the spring semester ended Technology installed a new server/desktop management software. We migrated from Forefront to Endpoint Security, a Microsoft virus protection software. It is a proactive software in eliminating the rogue viruses and worms we have had in the past. This migration was made possible through the Microsoft software contract the district uses.

Ironport Firewall Security for email filtering for viruses and .EXE files This was a new software we added to scan all email as it enters the district. Unwanted viruses and worms will be quarantined in the future and will not be allowed to be opened.

Google Drives/Docs open for staff The new wireless infrastructure has brought the ability to open this feature to staff. Due to the network configurations in the past which limited this we now allow our staff to use Google for classroom instruction.

Wireless Project This project kicked off 2 weeks ago by wiring all new high capacity access points into the ATC to catch the high traffic of TIA. Reports back were no low bandwidth issue and everyone seemed to be connected at the same time with no delays. This project will next start our high schools and move to the middle schools then to the elementary schools. This project is very labor intensive and will be completed by January 2014. Campus progress will be reported to the Board through the Executive Summary process.

Total network overhaul from Erate for 5 schools Borman, Lee, Rivera, Gonzales and Windle will have all new network CAT 6 cable, switches and video equipment as part of the Erate program which this Board agreed to adopt in January 2012. The district will encumber 10% of the total cost.

Office 365 cloud service for students This free software service was upgraded for all district students at the beginning of the summer. Our students are migrating from Live@EDU to Office 365. Microsoft has totally revamped the cloud computing with this product for students.

Papercut (districtwide printer management) This software will help staff and administrators get a report on printer usage by user and document across the entire district. As we try very hard to go paperless and post our critical communication into digital format, this software will help to bring paper costs down for our district.

Citrix (thin client overhaul) This was a major upgrade for the computers at Cross Oaks and Gonzales. This upgrade will help eliminate the past frustration with this technology.

Instructional Technology Support

TIA Wrap up As of this writing, the TIA conference was “better than ever” as a widely used quote. Over 1000 people attended the first day event. Mr. Barry Fox and his staff did a stellar job to take this years TIA to a whole new level. This Board will have a future workshop on TIA results.

New trainer position The webmaster used to reside in the Instructional Technology department and now is split into 2 areas now. The everyday web design and upkeep will reside with the Communications Department and Ms. Sharon Cox. The new “other half” will be a trainer in Instructional Technology will train district staff how to use the web software Schoolwires. We are very excited about this new area. This position will also lead the district Instructional Technology Support (ITS's) staff to better serve our campus staff's with one-on-one and one-to-many trainers.