



## **Brownwood ISD Technology Board Report November 09, 2020**

### **Introduction**

The purpose of this report is to give an update on projects that the Technology Department has been working on recently and what we have planned for the future.

### **District Computing Devices**

Technology has become such an important part of everyday life, especially during these times. Brownwood ISD makes it a priority to give staff and students the tools necessary to be successful.

Our technology department currently supports approximately 5002 computing devices in addition to well over 900 other devices such as Promethean boards, printers, document cameras, and network related equipment.

An approximate overview of available computing devices is as follows:

Student MacBook Airs – 800	Library Desktops - 24
Student Chromebooks - 250	Food Service Desktops - 16
Teacher MacBook Airs - 465	Office/Nurse Desktops - 40
Student Laptop Cart Computers - 985	Student and Teacher iPads – 1544
Student Classroom Desktops - 480	Promethean ActivBoards - 86
Computer Lab Desktops - 398	Promethean ActivPanels - 34

### **2020-2021 School Year Technology Projects**

#### TEA Operation Connectivity

In order to assist schools with the demand for remote learning devices, TEA launched Operation Connectivity. This gave school districts the opportunity to purchase computing devices and hotspots at a significantly reduced cost. School districts would pay 50% of what they ordered while TEA paid the other 50%.



Brownwood ISD took part in Operation Connectivity to ensure all students would have a computing device if the district was forced to move towards 100% remote learning. After evaluating our needs,



800 iPads and 100 AT&T hotspots were ordered. These iPads will be distributed throughout the elementary classrooms.

We are still waiting for some of the equipment to come in so that we can roll it out to the campuses. The iPads came in shortly after school had started but the protective cases have not arrived. Hotspots were delayed as well due to the demand but they were finally received at the end of October.

This purchase will ensure that all Brownwood ISD students have access to technology whether they are on-site or remotely attending from home.

### Technology Lending Grant

Brownwood ISD applied for and was awarded the 2020-2021 Technology Lending Grant. The purpose of this grant is to assist schools in purchasing technology equipment to be utilized by students at school and afford them the opportunity to check it out if they need a device at home to complete an assignment.

This grant enabled the district to purchase 410 Chromebooks and 5 AT&T hotspots for Brownwood Middle School. Chromebooks have been severely backordered due to the demand created by COVID. The district finally received the Chromebooks at the end of October and we are working diligently to get them setup and put into circulation.



### High School Freshmen Laptops

Freshmen laptops this school year will be different than in previous years. Based on campus input and other evaluations, Chromebooks were chosen for the 9<sup>th</sup> grade to continue the 1-to-1 laptop program.

Chromebooks are able to perform almost all of the daily computer needs of the students. The few class exceptions (like photography) will be supplemented with loaner MacBook Airs.

By making the switch from MacBook Airs to Chromebooks, Brownwood ISD is saving approximately \$150,000 per year in student laptop replacement.



### Teacher Laptop Replacement

As in previous years, 100 13" MacBook Airs will be ordered this school year to replace aging teacher laptops.

This is part of an annual replacement cycle. By adhering to this replacement cycle we can ensure that our teachers have up to date equipment to assist with their instruction.



### Elementary Classroom Computers

As in previous years, the technology department is replacing desktop computers in the elementary classrooms. The desktops that we have been going with are much smaller and have better specifications than in the past. These computers do not take up as much space, so the stations are becoming less cluttered.

Brownwood ISD is looking at the possibility of moving towards Chromeboxes in the elementary classrooms. Chromeboxes are essentially a desktop version of a Chromebook. These would take up even less room, they are more reliable, easier to manage, and they are more cost effective. These have been implemented at the Alternative High School/DAEP with good success.

### Physical Security Within the District

The safety of students and staff continues to be a priority for Brownwood ISD. As in previous years, the district continues to expand the physical security around the schools.



This year we have installed 16 security cameras and 5 door access controllers at the East Elementary campus. Other campuses that have already been completed continue to be improved as needs are discovered. As a result, an additional door access controller was installed at Coggin Intermediate School. Cameras that are aging or damage continue to be replaced at Brownwood High School and Brownwood Middle School.

At this time, Brownwood High School, Brownwood Middle School, Coggin Intermediate School, and East Elementary are fully outfitted with both security cameras and door access controllers. Woodland Heights and Northwest Elementary have





a door access controller in the secure vestibule area. We will continue to expand the system at these other locations in the future.

Both the door access control system and the security camera system for all campuses can be managed from a single centralized point. The door access control cards can be programmed to be used across all campuses in the district.

### Additional Classroom Equipment

Some other notable additions to technology around the district is the installation of 7 more Promethean ActivPanels at Coggin Intermediate and 2 more Promethean ActivBoards in elementary classrooms. 20 iPads were purchased and designated for ESL. Aging projectors and document cameras continue to be replaced as well.



### Remote Learning Update

Brownwood ISD has been able to provide a computing device (MacBook Air, Chromebook, or iPad) to all students who are enrolled in remote learning. However, at the beginning of the year we did not have hotspots available for students that requested one. We are now able to meet that need as it arises through the equipment purchased with the assistance of TEA. As of today, only 2 hotspots have been checked out for student use but we are able to meet the demand moving forward.

### **Closing**

The Brownwood ISD Technology Department is dedicated to helping the district become the best it can be. 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, or comments.

Thank you.