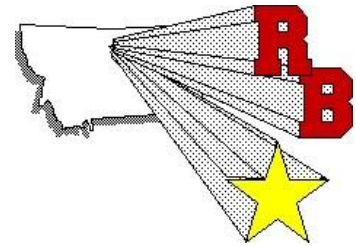# Technology Department

November 10, 2018

IT Director – Robert Parker

In October we got our Bright Bytes survey results back. The results show we are making excellent progress with both students and staff and their comfort level with the technology we have added over the last two years. The technology committee has yet to further dive deeper into the results but our initial review with our Bright Bytes coordinator showed we are on a very positive trend comparing last year's results to this year's.

In October we also had Office 365 training for district staff. The training sessions went very well and the feedback from the staff was very positive. Going from the results of our survey mentioned above and the trainer feedback, I think we can look at specialized training in specific areas tailored to teachers' classroom methods. Along those lines, we have scheduled another training for early December. This will be held December 6th in the afternoon and will cover Nearpod. Still, this isn't all the training programs we have begun to offer staff. We also have started using KnowBe4 to train our staff on the habits of safe web surfing, how to spot a phishing email, and how to report a phishing email to IT.

In the last few weeks IT has been researching a couple different options for district security systems and cameras. We are gathering quotes from different vendors and testing out free trial hardware. IT should have a good plan for replacing the system at the HS/JH as well as expansion into the elementary school in the next few weeks to a month. And additionally remote entry controls for both schools so we can keep our doors locked during the day.

IT has begun to replace outdated projectors in the district. We've added a 65" TV to our shop classroom which should help Mr. Coleman show the intricate details of the schematics his students use to build. The new projectors will make a big difference for our students and teachers ability to interact using the SMART boards. To be able to clearly make out the small details and read the text on the board without any strain will be a huge help.

IT met with other schools in October as part of a GTCC curriculum meeting. IT was able to learn a lot at that meeting about what other schools use for security and management of mobile devices. One of the things IT has initiated since that meeting is a software called Bark. It monitors our Office 365 domain and reports any document, email, spreadsheet, etc. that contain profanity, reference to violence, suicide, etc. As we move into the cloud more and more and rely less on paper, tools like this are essential. One other major bit of news we learned about at the meeting was that OPI will no longer actively pursue complaints or address complaints of school websites due to ADA violations. This is a bit moot as we have just completed the last bit of tweaks to our website to bring it inline with ADA compliance but this is good news just the same.

"Every Student Everyday!"