IT Department
SPRING Newsletter
13/14 School Year

Technology Update

We are almost thru the year and many changes have taken place in technology as we prepare for the possibility of a "Bring Your Own Device" (BYOD) concept to NSD in the FALL.

A parent survey has been posted on the NSD District Website for several weeks now. Parents have expressed concerns and I.T. will be sharing that data soon. Teachers will also have an opportunity to express their thoughts as well as Students. Watch the District Website for those surveys to appear soon.

It is important to remember that entering into a BYOD does not mean that parents will be required to purchase equipment, but allows the student to have a choice to bring in their own device. Parents that choose not to allow students to bring in a device will still have the same opportunity of using the district technology as it is today. IT IS TOTALLY VOLUNTARY.

More information will be coming and a forum for parents to meet and discuss this possibility.

What has I.T. been doing this year?

Without getting to techie, I.T. has invested in the virtualization world, and we have eliminated over 100 bare metal servers and have put them in a virtualized environment. One BIG server for over 100 servers. This technology opens the world for many new opportunities to efficiently use resources and allows us to expand the delivery of a desktop to a thin client world.

Thin client technology means less full size desktops and a faster delivery of the operating system. It does come with a learning curve for I.T. This year has been the first year we have ventured into the thin client and we thank you for your patience as we have worked through some compatibility issues with this new technology.

We have also implemented new technology tools for staff to maintain our computer fleet with ease. New procedures in the use of email and restrictions on data limits are saving the district on resources and budgets in I.T.

The Technology Department completed over 60 plus projects so far this year to better the technology experience. Security being our main focus this year, additional changes will come to the end user, such as more frequent password changes, quotas on email, personal drive quota and mobile device security.

Since Sept 2013, we completed over 3012 Work Order Tickets with an average of less than a day wait on non-critical issues.

I.T. has a wealth of technical resources for end users to see. Please look on SharePoint http://nsd-web/Technology/default.aspx for information from Office help to Smart resources to help in your day to day task when using technology.

What's new on the horizon?

The new ListServ, and the ability to join more than one distribution group, Microsoft 365, easier self-service password reset options, using your ID badge to print documents(no more typing in credentials) and an Apple branded Mobile App. these are just a few things coming. We are continuing to test thin client technology and using older equipment and the ability to connect to the cloud to bring you district resources faster.

Summer is fast approaching, and the good thing is there is NO MORE SNOW!!! Happy Computing!!