IT Department Newsletter
Spring 15/16 School Year

Technology Update Brief

THE VOTE IS IN

After a very lengthy look into Neshaminy's technology culture, staff utilization, the need for consistency, ease of use and teaching from bell to bell, it has been decided that we will be refreshing to staff/room desktops only. We know that some are very disappointed in this decision, but with the technology that is in the room, and the need for consistency, it was decided to keep the desktops in place.

The Desktop will be a Dell 5040 OptiPlex with SDD drive/DVDRW/VGA/HDMI/19In Monitor with Speaker Bar. Window 7/Office 2016.

Laptop letters went out in January, and those who have filled out the return form for a previously owned laptop, you will receive a replacement laptop. You will be informed when they will be ready.

We are looking to focus more on Special Education needs and where the need for portability seems to most important. We will update those departments as time nears.

As we approach the summer of 15/16, preparing for the School Year 16/17, it brings a wide variety of technology upgrades. Additional upgrades that consists of replacing wireless access points in all elementary and High School. This will broaden the capacity and density of the wireless allowing for more wireless devices being added as well this year.

We will be entering into another incoming 5th grade iPad deployment for the Middle Schools and expanding to the 7th grade teachers as well. We continue to supplement areas with Epson Projectors and newer Smart Flat Panels. Don't forget to use Atomic Learning for videos on how to use your new projector. This is the best way to obtain your Professional Development on the use of the projector, as it is self-paced and can be used when you are ready to learn. You can now log in using your Neshaminy network credentials, and it will keep a log of your trainings that have been assigned to you.

The newly formed Technology Advocate group is meeting every other month, which is comprised of tech savvy teaching staff in every building that volunteers their time to work with the IT Dept.

Their purpose is to help teaching staff with the use of classroom technology and to share ideas, collaborate and assist in using the tools in their curriculum. They are also brought up to speed on what is going on with the Technology in the district. This will help the buildings relay this information going on in the district and share it with other staff.

Implementation of Office 365 and the Adobe Creative Cloud Suite of applications will be available to all users from school and home. We have been Migrating all users over to Office 365/Email and have had great success. We are more than 80% of that migration and will continue throughout the current year till everyone has been migrated over.

As an important reminder to make sure that you are using the best safe computing procedure, never open or forward and email to anyone else or IT member, just delete it if you are not sure who it is from. The dangers that are out there every day pose a threat to the internal environment we are in at school.

ONE WRONG CLICK could bring it all down.

Take a break, smell the flowers and enjoy the extended light of the day.