

**INFORMATION ITEM**

**Date:** August 29, 2016

**To:** Raymond E. Lechner, Ph.D.  
Superintendent

**From:** Tony DeMonte  
Director of Technology and Media Services

**Subject:** Technology Infrastructure & 1:1 Learning Update

**TECHNOLOGY INFRASTRUCTURE**

All work for the scope of “Phase II” of the network infrastructure project was completed by Heartland Business Systems at the end of June.

This included cabling work at all schools in early June (Heartland provided cabling certification documents to D39) and the remaining engineering by the end of June. Wireless networks were defined and optimized. Active Directory structure was put in place. Students and staff will be provided a mapped server drive to safely store files. All critical systems we host on internal servers were backed up in-house and off-site. Documentation and knowledge transfer also took place.

Removal of old access points and recycling of old equipment is a project that remains for our staff. The intention was for this to take place in summer, however, other projects took priority.

Wireless connectivity speeds and strength of the wireless signal have increased tremendously from last summer. Wireless coverage has expanded to all classroom spaces and offices in the schools. The stability of the network has been achieved through new and quality equipment, back-up batteries in all network closets, and better monitoring tools to react swiftly in case there is a problem.

Although the project has been completed, Heartland engineers have been in contact with D39 to ensure all equipment is working this fall as anticipated. During the summer the network is not as taxed as it is when staff and students are in the buildings.

## **1:1 LEARNING UPDATE**

This is the final year of implementation in our 1:1 program. Beginning this year, all 5-8th graders have an iPad.

At the end of last school year, the 5th grade technology integration specialist visited every 4th grade classroom to explain the program and answer questions.

This summer included iPad distribution to all 5th and 6th graders. We tried a new format this year, the second year running this event. Parents were sent through three stations. Station 1 was talking with building administrators about expectations and answering any questions. Station 2 was with technicians who distributed the device and helped configure it. Station 3 was with HMS technology integration specialists who spoke about Schoology and Notability, which are two programs parents should be familiar with right away. The new format was well received.

A new mobile device management (MDM) software was implemented to help distribute apps to devices and push out updates/configurations on-demand. JAMF's Casper will help achieve better control over devices. The software will allow D39 to remotely manage what apps are on iPads and how they are allowed to function. If a student needs a replacement iPad, the configuration can be pushed onto a new device within minutes. Also, the software is managing app licenses so that D39 can retain ownership year to year without having to repurchase apps.

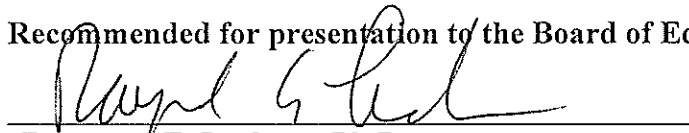
Apple released and now requires Managed Apple ID's for all new student accounts. Similar to Google accounts, the District can manage these logins. Apple's required implementation has been short and challenging for all school districts including D39. The good news is after implementation, students will have better assistance with their accounts.

Also during summer, the technology integration specialists at HMS offered an Academy 39 class called "I'm 1:1...Now What?" Teachers who took the course gained confidence and learned ways to accelerate their use of the device beyond peers.

Fifth grade teachers are implementing what the pilot team learned last school year. This includes increased iPad familiarity, use of the Schoology learning management system, best practice management within the classroom, and how to integrate the device within their respective curriculum.

A school based technology steering committee will continue to address building challenges both instructionally and with management. Due to D39's thoughtful rollout of one grade level each year, "lessons learned" were shared from previous grade implementations.

**Recommended for presentation to the Board of Education,**



**Raymond E. Lechner, Ph.D.**

**Superintendent**