

Meaningful Information Kindling Enlightenment's Message #2 – Technology

As I listen to students, parents and employees in our district community, one of the most frequent topics of interest and concern is technology. There is excitement about new technology in the classrooms, concern about the speed of our Internet service, concern about support for technology, and questions about where we go next. I thought I would give you some information and some plans we have for next steps.

1. **Many of our teachers have embraced technology in the classroom:** SMARTBoards, IXL Math, LCD Projectors, Illuminate, Teacher Websites, Ed-Line, Shared U-Drive, and many other examples improve learning for our students and provide means for improved parent involvement. Thanks to all of you who have taken the effort to learn about and implement that technology.
2. **Our Internet service is slow – but it will get faster.** We have a new year's gift coming soon. Our bandwidth is going to dramatically increase, by 1,000% to 1,500%, in mid-January. You should definitely notice a difference.
3. **While we have significantly increased the use of technology in our schools, we have decreased the number of employees who keep that technology working.** I know the budget is challenging, but this is an area where almost everyone is negatively impacted.
4. **Our current technology plan does not address critical issues, nor does it map where we are going in technology.** The District is creating a district-wide technology committee that will have its first meeting this month. Each school will be represented and we will discuss how we plan to use and support technology over the next five years.

So let's look forward to improving our Internet speed by next month, and quickly making a plan that we can all be a part of for the years to come. Thanks to all of you using technology to maximize student learning, and as always, thanks for all you do.

Mike Matthews