



Brookings School District

Working Together...Educating with Excellence...Inspiring Learners for Life

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TO: Board of Education

FROM: Jason Smidt – Director of Technology

RE: Technology Administrative Report

DATE: 10/7/2024

As we head into the month of October, the Brookings Technology Department continues to support the staff and students of the Brookings School District. The start of the school year not only brings a lot of excitement, but also is a very busy time for our Tech Department. We have assisted staff in the use of technology on various fronts including staff/student devices, interactive displays, curriculum specific technology, as well as many other forms of technology. Our Technology Teachers across the district continue to teach our students digital citizenship, proper use of technology, coding, and many other technology rich lessons. I feel that our Technology Teachers and Technology Department really add to the culture at the Brookings School District. Below are a few of the technology items I would like to share.

1. Lightspeed

- a. We utilize Lightspeed for our content filtering and our classroom management of our 1:1 devices. A content filter is a technology or tool designed to monitor, block, or restrict access to specific types of content on the internet or within a network. The primary purpose of a content filter is to control and manage the flow of information to ensure that users are not exposed to inappropriate, harmful, or unwanted content. Our content filter plays a crucial role in maintaining a safe and productive online environment. We also use Lightspeed to monitor our student devices. Teachers can see the students' screens, send chats, and disable screens on student devices all in one simple place. It helps teachers manage and control classroom technology, foster a productive learning environment, and ensure students' online safety.

2. Brookings Technology Ticket Site

- a. I also want to give an update on our Ticket Site. This is the primary way for staff to communicate issues that they have and for us to address those issues in a

timely manner and close the tickets. Our ticket site was created by Travis Vlaminc and is a great way for us to organize our time and resources. Staff fill out a ticket with all the pertinent information and it comes to every person in the Technology Departments email. We encourage all of our staff to utilize our ticket site since it is an easy way for us to track our tech help and stay organized.

3. New Infrastructure

- a. I also want to give an update on our new network infrastructure at the two new Elementary Schools. Through E-Rate, we purchased all new networking devices for Medary and Hillcrest. We wanted those new schools to start with new devices. So far, our new devices and setup at those schools have been working great.