



Pathway to the Future

# Technology Services Bulletin

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*"Curriculum drives technology."  
– Vicki Davis*

## From the Director

Welcome to 2017! I hope everyone enjoyed their time off. The Technology Services team, working with our partners, was able to complete the re-cabling of Noble Elementary and the replacement of the district's phone system over the winter break. Both projects went quite well. For the size of our phone system, we had fewer issues than I had anticipated. Our phone provider, [101 Voice](#) has done an excellent job in addressing issues as they have come up and overall the reliability and call quality are much better than what we experienced with Jive. Like many of the technologies that are common place today, telephones are something that are easy to take for granted until they don't work as you have come to expect. We hope you'll come to take the new phones for granted.

## New Telephone System



When you change phone systems, one of the usual tasks is recording your voicemail greetings, your name and changing your voicemail password. When people call and get the generic "the user you called is unavailable" greeting, they're not sure if they're leaving a message for the right person. It is reassuring for them to hear your voice. To make the process easier, we created a [voicemail setup guide](#) that provides step-by-step instructions. If you have any other phone questions, we have the [training video](#), the [quick user guide](#) and a [frequently asked questions](#) document to help you figure out the new system. If you have any phone issues, please open a Help Desk ticket [online](#) or via [email](#). Our new vendor is very responsive, so please let us know if you're having a problem so they can take care of it.

## Free Online Professional Development from SCCOE



The Santa Clara County Office of Education (SCCOE) has a new [online professional development platform](#) and they've created 6 free courses. The self-paced proficiency based courses typically require 6-8 hours to complete. Units are available through University of the Pacific for an additional cost. The current course offerings are Evaluating Online Information, Simple Steps to Integrate Technology Today, Connecting Your Classroom to Global Learning, Digital Citizenship & Literacy, PLAY: Powerful Learning and You, and Digital Lesson Planning. We're looking forward to hearing feedback from teachers who have participated and for SCCOE to increase the number of free courses available. It could be a great opportunity to provide needed professional development for teachers across the county.

*"Education Technology is not about doing things better. It is about doing BETTER THINGS." – Unknown*

## Some Passwords are Better than Others



Picking good passwords can be difficult. You want something that is easy to remember but hard for someone else to guess. Security Week recently [posted](#) about the [25 most common passwords of 2016](#) based on an analysis of over 10 million passwords revealed in data breaches.

Among the most popular were variations of 123456, qwerty, 111111, 123123, password, google, and zxcvbnm. Over 50% of online accounts were using one of these top 25 passwords. Now is a good time to re-evaluate your online passwords and consider using a free password management program such as [LastPass](#) or [Dashlane](#). They can help you maintain unique passwords for every online account.

## Visual Tool to Control Classroom Noise



If you're looking for a way to help your class keep the noise down to an acceptable level, consider [Bouncy Balls](#). It's a free online tool that uses your computer or webcam's microphone to track the noise in your classroom and provide an animated display you can project to give them instant feedback on how they're doing. You can set the desired noise level and the type of bouncing objects you see from among plastic balls, emojis, bubbles or even eyeballs.

## District Mobile App



We recently released the [BerryessaUSD mobile app](#) to both the [Apple App Store](#) and the [Google Play Store](#). The app is intended to provide an easy way for parents and members of the community to get access to important school information. The app has information on each of the schools and general district resources. Take a look at the app and use the Feedback option on the "Other" menu to share your suggestions for making it better. Links to install the app, FAQs and a Quick Start Guide are available on our [website](#).

## Berryessa Ed-Tech Professional Development



Martha Campos is doing afternoon (3:30pm-5:00pm) Ed-Tech professional development sessions in the Mac lab at Piedmont (Rm 33). Martha is excited about having a dedicated, well equipped space for these hands-on sessions. The [list of classes](#) is available. Classes include Google Apps, Hapara Workspace, Blogger, Edmodo, EDPuzzle, Google Classroom, Chromebook Overview and much more! [Register today!](#)

## EdSurge's Top 10 EdTech Tools of 2016



In the usual look back at the previous year, EdSurge posted a list of their top 10 tools from 2016. If you're looking for something to shake up your classroom, this is a great place to start. The tools they highlight include [JeopardyLabs](#), [Lab 4 Physics](#), [Rewordify](#), [Curriki](#), [DataUSA](#), [Guess the Correlation](#) and one of my favorites, [PhotosforClass](#). Take a look at the tools and see if there is something there that catches your interest.

## Sharing Technology Resources

Please visit the Technology Services [department blog](#). New instructional resources and tips are added there daily. If you have something you want to share, let us know! You can also see the blog posts by [following us on Twitter!](#) The [archives](#) of this newsletter are available on our web site. Follow BUSD on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter!](#)