



# Technology Services Bulletin

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*"We need technology in every classroom and in every student and teacher's hand, because it is the pen and paper of our time, and it is the lens through which we experience much of our world." - David Warlick*

## From the Director

I hope you had a fun and relaxing holiday season and that you came back re-energized and ready to do great things in 2016. For me this week has been one of awakening to just how much work we all have to do. As I have been planning for the rest of the school year, I have come to realize that there is an incredible amount of work to do. It isn't that new work has been added, only that I have come to better understand the time required to do it all well. Since my odds of winning the Powerball are slightly less than being struck by lightning or being eaten by a shark, I need to work to support my family. Given that necessity, I love coming to work here every day. I'm excited to be here and my team and I will be working hard in 2016 to help you use technology to improve teaching and learning.

## Classroom Technology



In the Measure L bond, there are funds allocated for classroom technology. Our first priority is getting every school site to a 2:1 student to Chromebook ratio. Our team has been working with each school site to get an accurate count of the existing devices.

We're going to need to purchase more than 1,300 new devices in order to reach that 2:1 ratio. This is another step on our way to 1:1 computing that is in our future. We're planning to purchase these devices this spring. We're utilizing additional services to assist with configuring the devices and the carts to expedite how quickly they can be delivered to your school. Technology Services and Purchasing will work together to get them to you in time for the start of school in August.

## Videoconferencing



Congratulations to Noble for being accepted to participate in the [Presidential Primary Sources Project](#) via videoconference. Our team is assisting them in installing the appropriate software to allow them to participate. Virtual Field Trips via videoconferencing are a great option. The California Department of Parks and Recreation's [PORTS](#) project is a wonderful resource. They have units in history and science including ancient civilizations, desert stories, elephant seals, gold rush, immigration, monarch butterfly life cycle, redwood ecology, salmon lifecycle, science of habitat protection and restoration, state government, tide pools, weather and more all aligned with their virtual field trips. If you're interested in accessing PORTS or other great resources available via videoconferencing, let us know.

## LAN Upgrade Phase II

This summer we will replace the cabling at the rest of our schools. We're currently developing the bid documents and plan to take the project to bid in March. All of the work will begin right after school ends and be completed by early August.

*"Education is evolving due to the impact of the Internet. We cannot teach our students in the same manner in which we were taught. Change is necessary to engage students not in the curriculum we are responsible for teaching, but in school. Period." – April Chamberlain*

## Share Your Innovative Uses of Technology

Are you or one of your colleagues using technology in an innovative or effective way? We're looking for examples of how technology is being used in our district that we can share in future newsletters, on our web site and in professional development. We would like to create a 2-3 minute video vignette explaining the use of technology to share with our colleagues. We'll do all the technical stuff so all you have to do is show us your project. Please [email Dave](#) and let us know about the great uses of technology in our district so we can help share them.

## Professional Development

siliconValley **CUE**



Berryessa's own Martha Campos is presenting at two nearby EdTech mini-conferences. First is East Bay CUE's [Cool Tools 2016](#) conference on January 23<sup>rd</sup> from 8am to 3:30pm at Carondelet High School in Concord. The registration is \$80 and includes breakfast, lunch and a CUE membership. Second is Silicon Valley CUE's [2016 Teach Through Technology](#) on March 5<sup>th</sup> from 8am to 3pm at The Harker School in San Jose. Tickets start at \$35 including breakfast and lunch. You should attend one or both and see Martha's sessions as well as those from the other great presenters. These are great professional development opportunities within a short drive.

## Common Core Digital Standards

With the inclusion of technology use throughout the Common Core State Standards, some districts have plotted out scope and sequence of the technology skills needed at each grade level to make sure students are ready for the CAASPP. A couple examples that we like are from [Long Beach Unified](#) and the [Fresno County Office of Education](#). These are great for determining which technology skills should be taught at each grade level.

## Kahoot!

I'm probably the only person who hasn't seen it, but I was just introduced to [Kahoot!](#) at a presentation at SCCOE. It was a great way to add interactivity to the presentation. *Kahoot!* allows you to create "learning games in minutes, made from a series of multiple choice questions. Add videos, images and diagrams to your questions to amplify engagement." The teacher presents the question and students use Chromebooks or iPads to select their answer and see how they did. It can even track how quickly students selected the right answer to create a little competition. That feature can be turned on or off.

## Technology Standards



I remember promising you a link to technology standards in this month's newsletter. I'm sorry but I wasn't able to complete them in time. Bear with me a little longer and in the February newsletter, we really will have a link to the options and prices I know you're waiting to see. Thanks for your patience!

## Have a Suggestion?

If you have suggestions for items to be included in our newsletter, [please let us know](#). We'd love to include your ideas! Thank you for taking the time to read this newsletter and for everything you do every day to make our students' lives better!