



## Blue Mountain Union School

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### Technology Department Report November 1, 2021

#### Summer Projects

- Inventory and tracking of school issued devices took a large portion of time especially with the students using devices up to the last day of school.
- Our Wifi system cloud software was upgraded and firmware updated to each access point throughout the building. An additional OESU SSID was added to better streamline central office staff working from Blue Mountain.
- One to one Chromebooks coming on warranty were gone through and shipped out for service over the summer to ensure repairs and prevent any extra expenditure. Carts for grades Kindergarten through eight were updated and organized prior to the start of school. This summer we were able to have a student employee come in and support this immense task.
- I attended a conference in Springfield this summer with cyber security and Emergency Connectivity Funding as the main focus for many of the trainings I attended.
- The supervisory union transitioned in the later part of the summer to a new Remote Monitoring & Management system. It replaces our existing managed solutions for remote management and anti-virus.
- Equipment procurement was navigated early as allowed in order to ensure items arrived in a timely manner for deployment at the beginning of school. We were fairly lucky with most all items arriving on time. At the time of this report all technology related items ordered this summer have arrived.

#### Network Administration

- Network accounts as well as Google Domain and print management accounts have been updated and created for all students, K – 12, and staff.
- The supervisory union came up with a new procedure for requesting accounts that is initiated through Human Resources. It ensures for proper paperwork and clearances to be in place prior to account creation as we had done previously.

#### One to One Initiative

- One to one Chromebook have been a large portion of time with grades Kindergarten through Twelfth having the option to obtain a Chromebooks for school use. The necessity of this came about during the start of the Covid Pandemic and the pivot from supporting devices in grade seven through twelve to all students, along with teachers and paraeducators, has become a very large portion of time.

#### Department Support

- I have worked with the food service department's software vendor to get summer updates in and transition to the new school year prior to the previous food service director's departure. We have also updated all the equipment in the food service department this summer including the Food Service Director's machine, the POS terminal, and a device for the staff in food service to check emails and work on online trainings.

- As board meetings have moved back to a combination of in person and streamed we have worked to developed an easy to setup and run system for meetings including some new hardware. While there will be some limitations we hope this will provide a solid solution for these meetings.

#### **Emergency Connectivity Fund - ECF**

- After I attended a workshop this summer biased on the FCCs Emergency Connectivity Fund John Munson and I worked to submit a proposal to fund aging devices at Blue Mountain. The national \$7.17 billion program is aimed at helping schools and libraries fund equipment or services for remote learning during the COVID-19 emergency period. On October 12th were notified vis commitment letter that we were award \$90,642.60 in funds for the 2021-2022 school year. Not only do we plan to cover our eligible devices purchased this year but replace the 180 devices that were provided by the State of Vermont, secured from Comcast a donation, which will no long be eligible for Google updates come this spring. This makes them not eligible to be used for multiple things including state testing.

#### **Technology Education**

- John's in house classes this semester include Yearbook & Computer Graphics as well as Digital Video Editing & Production. He is also teaching through VTVLC Game Design with Scratch In addition to being the VTVLC Coordinator.
- The after school STEM Club that encompasses grades five through eight has tremendous participation so far this year. Exploring topic such as aviation, rocketry, robotics, renewable energy, and coding, and 3D printing / modeling. Josh Munson and Forrest Matthews are co advisors.

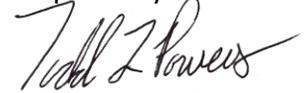
#### **Bmuschool.org Gmail Suite Accounts**

- This summer many of our older accounts with the exception of teachers will gone through and prepared to be disabled to the old domain.
- All bmuschool.org email accounts will formally end December 15<sup>th</sup> of 2021 throughout the Supervisory Union.

#### **System Maintenance**

- John and I have also been working with multiple teachers as they get going in their classrooms with multimedia or other technology needs through the start of school. Transitions and new staff this can be a large undertaking in itself. We are close to covering almost all of our classrooms with interactive displays of some type at this point.

Respectfully submitted,



Todd Powers, System Administrator