

TECH Times

ISSUE 4

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2025



New Year's Tech Resolutions:

No. 1: Check your passwords

If you are still using the same password for multiple accounts, change them - especially if you are using the same password for social media, your bank, personal email, or credit card accounts. We recommend using a mix of upper- and lower-case letters, numbers, and special characters.

No. 2: Embrace cloud technology

Cloud technology provides a platform to access and manage educational resources, deliver lessons flexibly, collaborate with students remotely, track progress, and streamline grading. We are a Google district, so take advantage of Google Classroom if you are not already.

No. 3: Be skeptical of what you see online

Remember the image of a girl following Hurricane Helene? AI-generated images are only going to get more realistic. Be skeptical of clickbait posts and images and don't be too quick to share them.

No. 4: Remove unused apps on Facebook

Plenty of us log on to websites and apps using our Facebook accounts. If you no longer use them, remove them from your Facebook account. Go to settings and privacy, settings, apps and websites, and click remove.

No. 5: Use technology for productivity, not procrastination

No. 6: Practice online security and privacy



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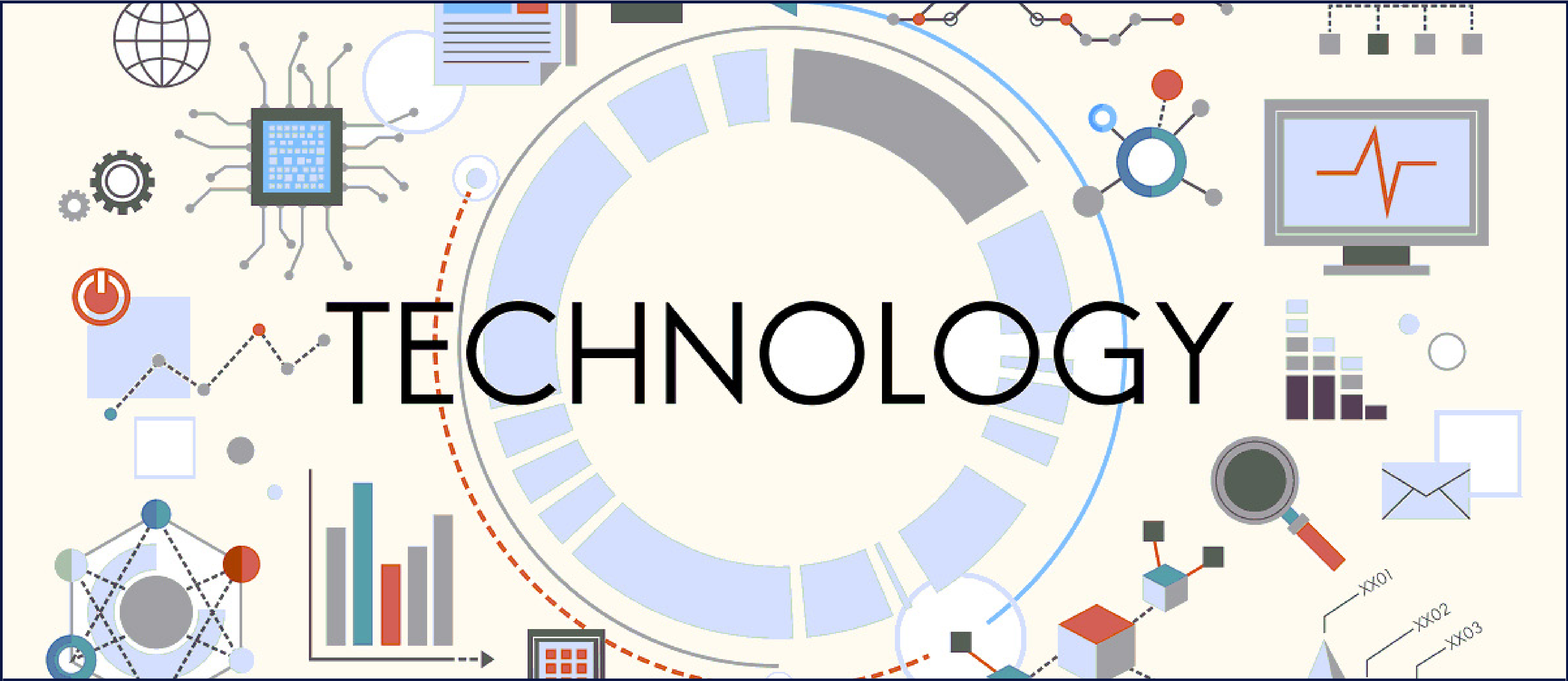
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Did you Know?

Spam Mail was named after the canned meat, SPAM meat:

In an episode of Monty Python's Flying Circus that aired in the 1970's, patrons are seated in a restaurant enquiring about the day's menu items. However, it appears that every dish includes at least a little Spam (i.e. 'spiced ham' from a tin). The more they enquire, the more spam appears in each dish. By the end of the sketch, a dish that previously featured 'egg, bacon, sausage and Spam' now only consists of "Spam, Spam, Spam and Spam".

In other words, Spam was taking over the menu, much the same as spam email messages can take over an inbox daily.



Technology Advantages/Challenges

A Few Advantages:

Preparing students for the future:

Technology can teach students new life skills that can prepare them for the real world, such as digital literacy, critical thinking, collaboration, and lifelong learning. Digital literacy can help students develop digital proficiency and learn how to use high-tech tools. Critical thinking can help students develop their critical thinking skills. Collaboration can help students learn how to work together to solve problems and share ideas. Lifelong learning can help students learn how to embrace learning as a lifelong skill.

Student engagement:

Technology can make learning more interactive and enjoyable, with tools like multimedia presentations, educational apps, and gamified learning. Technology can engage students behaviorally, emotionally, and cognitively. It can also help students develop professional skills in the digital field.

Personalized learning:

Technology can help teachers tailor lessons to the needs of each student, allowing them to work at their own pace. Technology has brought access to data, both on how students are performing and also in relation to their preferred learning style. It has also given students greater visibility over their progress than they have ever had before.

A Few Challenges:

Data privacy:

As we, in the technology department have stated before, there is a possible danger that educational settings can give rise to issues over protecting students' personal information and privacy. This is why the state of TN now requires us to have a Student Data Privacy Agreement on file with each vendor ensuring ownership of each student's data.

Cost of new technology:

Not all district budgets are able to sustain this addition. The number of devices per student and the number of additional personnel to support the technology program are two of the biggest factors in the cost of educational technology. Our district is 1-to-1, meaning each of our students has the use of their own Chromebook. Other factors are quality of the hardware purchased, purchasing low quality hardware can lead to higher maintenance and support costs over time, cloud-based solutions, and energy costs.

Keeping up with changes:

Technology is a constantly evolving industry, and educational technology can quickly become obsolete as new technology is introduced. A major barrier teachers struggle with when introducing technology into their classrooms is keeping up with these many changes and trends. Teachers can keep up with current technology trends by engaging in continuous professional development opportunities focused on technology integration in education. Teachers can attend workshops, conferences, and webinars specifically designed for educators to learn about new technologies and their applications in the classroom. There are also social media groups made for educators, Of course, we in the Technology Department, will help in any way we can.

Best Chatbots in Education:

ChatGPT

Claude

Perplexity AI

OtterPilot

ChatGPT - Highly versatile, capable of answering questions across various subjects, providing explanations, and even generating different learning materials like quizzes.

Claude - Praised for its natural language processing, ability to summarize information, and provide detailed answers to complex queries.

Perplexity AI - Considered a strong option for research-oriented learning due to its advanced search capabilities and detailed responses.

OtterPilot - Useful for online lectures, automatically transcribing and summarizing content.