

Tech Times

Monthly Newsletter of Information Technology

Cybersecurity Awareness

Below are effective ways to keep yourself safe online, protect your personal data, and ultimately help secure our district as a whole:

Use multifactor authentication (MFA): We currently use MFA in our district to add an extra layer of security in case your password is stolen. We also recommend you add it to your personal accounts.

Update your software: Restarting your device often will install updates, resolve operational issues, and apply group policies. We, in the Technology Department, restart our computers at the end of each day and shut them off on Fridays.

Be cautious of links and contacts: If you do not know the sender, or if the message seems suspicious, do not click the link. You can hover your cursor over the link to see where it will actually take you.

Report suspicious activity: Report suspicious activity as soon as it happens. You can copy the link and/or forward the email to the Technology Team for us to investigate as well.

Use strong passwords: Use long, unique, and complex passwords. The rule of thumb is for them to be at least 12 characters long and a combination of upper case letters, lower case letters, numbers, and special characters. Also, make sure each of your accounts have a different password, that way if one account is compromised, your other accounts will remain secure.

Think before you click: More than 90% of successful cyber-attacks start with a phishing email.

Did You Know?

The name Google was created accidentally, it was originally supposed to be named 'Googol.' (*Googol is the digit 1 followed by 100 zeroes*).

The founders checked to see if that domain was taken, but accidentally searched for 'google.com' instead of 'googol.com'. They liked that name even better and registered the domain name on September 15, 1997.



Inside this issue

Cybersecurity Awareness	1
Did You Know?	1
Screencastify	2
Pro Tip	2
Using Tech in the Classroom	2
Student's Google Drives	2





Screencastify

You may have noticed that the Screencastify screen video recorder has been pushed out as a Chrome extension on your Google accounts. This tool is perfect for teachers who want to easily create and share interactive videos in the classroom. You can even turn videos into a quiz! We do request that any video you make you add closed captions (cc) to make the videos accessible for those who are deaf or hard of hearing. To access Screencastify, you will click the puzzle piece icon in Google Chrome located to the right of the address bar, next to the User Profile icon.



Pro Tip: To restore tabs you accidentally closed out of while browsing in Google Chrome, click Ctrl+Shift+T to reopen them. Easy peasy.

Student's Google Drives

Students no longer have unlimited storage in their Google accounts like we provided in the past. For this reason, we have recently seen that many students' Google Drives have reached their storage limit. When this happens, they will not be able to view any new assignments in Google Classroom. In the instances that we have seen with this, the students' storage is over 90% media, like photos. Teachers, you can go ahead and prevent this from happening by asking your students to delete photos, unless necessary for assignments, from their Drives. To view the Google Drive storage on a Chromebook, open the web browser, go to "drive.google.com", and on the left sidebar click on "Storage."

10 Ways to Use Technology in the Classroom

1. **Virtual Field Trips:** Go on a virtual field trip by using Google Maps, YouTube videos, or video conferencing to create experiences without leaving the classroom.
2. **Quiet a Noisy Classroom:** To make it easier to give lessons, use a tool that tracks and displays classroom noise.
3. **Gather Student Feedback:** Use online surveys and polls to gather opinions from students on lessons and address questions and/or concerns.
4. **Multimedia Presentations:** Use multimedia, such as images, graphs, sound effects and news clips, to create an enjoyable classroom environment and attract students' interest.
5. **Create Digital Content:** Use digital content to integrate a culturally responsive teaching framework into your classrooms.
6. **Podcasts:** Use podcasts for a variety of subjects, such as ESL, Science, and History.
7. **Online Class Calendar:** Create and share a class calendar that details lessons and highlights important dates.
8. **Set Up Student Blogs:** Blogging can be a creative outlet for students; examples include poems, short essays, or journal entries.
9. **Base Assignments on Technology-Focused Subjects:** Students can write guides explaining how to use their favorite computer programs or investigate and report how certain technologies have impacted history, politics, or any other subject.
10. **Introduce a Game-Based Learning Platform:** These will engage students and enliven difficult topics and subjects.

*Please utilize the tools already available to you. If you are interested in using a new tool in the classroom based on this topic please make sure with the Technology Department that it is allowed.