

Technology Department Report

Software

The IT Department conducted its first SchoolDESX review/training session for instructors. During this session we reviewed the creation of grade activities, viewing student attendance and viewing student quarterly grades. Instructors found the information to be of great value and also inquired about the possibility of future sessions. We in the IT Department are in the process of developing a bi-monthly training plan to provide our instructional staff with additional training.

Working with SchoolDESX, we have developed a second quarter grade card that displays class grades, a quarterly grade, cumulative grade for the year and cumulative student attendance. At this time the cumulative attendance function isn't working properly, but we have confidence that it will be ready before report cards are due.

Network

Over the course of the last month we have had network service issues. Our first issue developed earlier in the month dealing with the email system. Secondly, we have once again exhausted the limit of IP Address on the main subnet.

Our email and website are both running on the same server. Due to website updates and the application of security patches, we exceeded the free space on this server's hard drive. This resulted in our email going down over the holiday break. This issue was resolved by moving our website to a different drive on our server. Once our website was relocated, our email returned to a working state. We have two new server budgeted for the 06-07 school year. It is our goal to replace the current email/web server with two different servers. We feel for optimal performance, it's in our best interest to run both email and the website on different servers.

The IT Department has preformed another network segmentation do to exhausting our current IP Address pool. When the IP Address pool becomes exhausted new network devices cannot obtain an IP Address to communicate with our network. Not only does this hinder adding new network nodes but it also stops our VPN clients from gaining access to our network. We have resolved the issue by configuring an additional segment within the high school building. ECTS now has three network segments.

Throughout the month of January, I have been training Marchelle Eberle and Phylis Zimmermann on the process of monitoring student Internet access. Both Marchelle and Phylis have already identified hundreds of Internet sites that were not being blocked by our SonicWall content filter. Making custom modifications to the content filter we have been able to block everything from inappropriate content to HTTP proxies and anonymizers. Both individuals were quick to learn the process.

We as a school have been working with TR Services on developing specifications for a new phone system. It is our goal to have a quote by the end of January. We are looking forward to the technical possibilities a new phone system will bring to our organization.