

# TECHNOLOGY

APRIL 2016

## INFRASTRUCTURE UPDATES

Over the past several years we have worked to keep pace with our growing Internet usage. The explosion of cloud services and storage have been wonderful in expanding possibilities, yet it has left us always needing more bandwidth. This summer we will be massively upgrading our Internet connection with a more than 3 times increase over current.

That will necessitate major upgrades in regards to our Internet filtering and firewall. Those evaluations are currently underway. We are very excited by new options and discoveries occurring in the classrooms.

Over the summer, you will see changes in many systems needed to accommodate our increases. Expect a new filtering system

that will bring with it new possibilities and some adjustment to what everyone is used to. We will also be greatly enhancing our security with selective SSL stream decryption and anti-virus systems running at the firewall level for all traffic.

At the building level, we recently applied for funding to do complete network replacements at all eleven of our elementary schools. This is the same funding opportunity we utilized to replace our secondary building networks with much success last year.

The timeline with this program can be fluid. We hope to have answers near September of 2016 and be off with major upgrades bringing greatly enhanced speed and wireless coverage.

### WINDOWS 10

Over the summer we will be upgrading most of our machines to Windows 10. Our current Windows 7 Operating System is being dropped off support. Windows 10 brings with it a fairly familiar interface and speed increases. Microsoft has made the Windows 10 upgrade very accessible so you may already have a free upgrade available for home.

### OFFICE 2016

Office 2016 maintains the familiar ribbon interface introduced with Office 2013. You'll find your applications will look very similar to what you are used to today. All Perry Township employees and students have five free installations of Office 2016 available for home use. Visit <https://portal.office.com> and use your normal Perry Township login (@perryschools.org).

## PARENT COMMUNICATIONS

Our goal is to connect our families to your classrooms in the easiest ways possible.

The Perry Township Technology Parent Corner (<http://websites.msdp.k12.in.us/parentcorner/>) gives parents

basic information on technology in our township and ways to get started in staying connected.

Before Spring Break, we sent out the newest edition of the Parent Technology newsletter. You can view the newsletter at

<https://goo.gl/H04Xdx>.

One of the highlights this year in parent connections is the new food service system rolled out in our cafes. Parents can quickly see purchases and have balances updated in real time.

**APRIL 2016**

Perry Township Schools  
Technology Services

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helpdesk@perryschools.org



*Growing...*  
*Enhancing...*  
*Simplifying*

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[http://  
websites.msdp.k12.in.us/  
technology](http://websites.msdp.k12.in.us/technology)

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Windows 10 Extended  
Tutorial:

[https://  
www.youtube.com/  
watch?v=1TneCqdEZuU](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1TneCqdEZuU)

Summer Reimaging

This summer we will be cleaning off machines and upgrading them to Windows 10. Please save your items to your H drive or your Google drive before you leave for the summer.

## SUMMER PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

We anticipate another great summer of professional development in the technology lab! Plan on continuing to learn about tech tools that have been around for a while as well as new tools and topics. We will also have Digital Lesson Labs designed to provide time for teachers to develop digital content and online activities.

Of course, we will have numerous sessions that will cover "All things Google." This will include 90 minute sessions on Google Forms, Google Drawing, and Google Drive just to mention a few. We will cover numerous Chrome Apps and extensions that will enhance learning in your

classroom.

All aspects of our new online learning system will also be covered. There will be Canvas overview sessions as well as classes that focus on specific aspects of Canvas, such as using assessments and quizzes with Canvas (along with grade transfer to Skyward).

Other topics will include: Smart Notebook & Smart Amp, Assistive Tech, Coding in the Classroom with Scratch, Online Resources from the Media Center, Pear Deck, and many more!

## RESOURCE COMMITMENTS

Annually, we spend nearly \$500,000 on resources and software for use in our classrooms. Our goal is to maintain these products for several years at a time in a cost-effective manner. Some highlights of our software contracts:

- Waterford/IXL
- Microsoft OS and Office
- PearDeck
- Canvas
- Encyclopedia Britannica/ImageQuest
- BrainPOP
- Smart Notebook
- Discovery Education Streaming

## MAKER PROJECT UPDATE

Our Elementary Maker Initiative rolled out in the fall of 2015 and is already going strong! 24 pilot classrooms, representing all grades K through 5, received hands-on devices to help make high tech learning more accessible and fun for all. With these tools, our young students are building circuits, designing robots, writing and debugging programs and creating their own video tutorials.

What is particularly exciting about our initiative is that the tools can be used across the curriculum to bring STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts & Design, and Mathematics) into any

and every subject. Already, our students are using programmable Sphero robots to explore angles and motion and GoPro cameras to explain grade level concepts in mathematics and language arts. Magnetic kits of littleBits and Cubelets allow even our youngest students to design and build machines that will perform a task.

For more information and to follow along with the program, visit our [Maker Initiative Site](#) and our [Google Plus Community](#).