EACS Technology Newsletter December 14, 2017

EAST ALLEN COUNTY SCHOOLS
DREAM IT. DO IT.

1. **For teachers in grades K-12**: District Expectations for the use of Canvas in the second quarter of the school year are to continue posting weekly lesson plans/newsletters in Calendar. In grades K-6, the district expectation is to create at least 1 school work assignment, and/or have 1 discussion in your course. In grades 7-12, the district expectation is to create 3 or more assignments and have discussions in courses. At all grade levels, the expectation is to place student resources, such as web links, YouTube clips, documents, etc., into Canvas Pages or Modules. If you have questions, please contact any Tech Coach.

2. **For all Middle/High School English/journalism teachers, or any teacher working with print media and graphic design:** Do you know Canva? Not Canvas, but Canva? Canva is a free graphic design tool website providing access to over a million photographs, graphics, and fonts. It is used by non-designers as well as professionals. Canva's free tools can be used for both web and print media design and graphics. Take a look at the free tools and content at Canva.

3. **For all staff:** The EACS website, and every school website is changing and updating. To follow the rules of ADA compliance, the EACS district website, as well as each school website, is changing color contrasts and changing how the tabs work. These changes should go live tomorrow, December 15. People who manage the website for each school DO NOT need to do anything.

4. **For all RDS/AS400 users:** In an effort to further improve our network security, we are altering our RDS/AS400 passwords to change every 60 days, beginning January of 2018. Here are some password rules you will need to know:
   1. User-names will not be affected; only passwords.
   2. Passwords need to be changed every 60 days. An alert will be received 7 days prior to expiration.
   3. We recommend that your password is not the same as your computer login password (your Novell password).
   4. All passwords must contain a minimum of 5 characters and a maximum of 10 characters.
   5. All passwords must contain at least 1 numeric value.
   6. The password cannot be repeated compared to the last 4 passwords used.

Not all passwords will change immediately on January 1. The process will be progressive as various groups of passwords will change. Please contact HELPdesk or Keith Madsen with questions.

5. **For all Staff: Have a great Winter Break, a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!**

Fun technology fact: Thanks to a new app from GM, we can safely order from Starbucks and Dunkin' Donuts while we drive. The new technology will let drivers do everything from ordering hot wings to booking a hotel room or reserving a table at Applebee's, all without even having to pull over. If you own a 2017 or 2018 model year Chevrolet, Buick, GMC or Cadillac, you might see a new icon on your vehicle's central computer screen Tuesday morning. It's labeled Marketplace. With a few taps of your finger you can order food/drinks, or reserve a table at one of several restaurants that have teamed up with GM. Read more of the article here.