



EAST ALLEN COUNTY SCHOOLS

DREAM IT. DO IT.

EACS Technology Newsletter February 5, 2021



1. **For all staff, and especially Guidance Counselors and SEL Coaches: Have you heard of Smiling Mind?** Smiling Mind is a free, not-for-profit app that encourages mindfulness and better mental being in schools. It is specifically built for students and teachers, and breaks down activities for age groups 7-9, 10-12, 13-15, 16-18 as well as adults. It comes with PD training for teachers, classroom resources and student workshops. Free [in the App Store here](#) and via the [Website here](#).

2. **For all teachers and administrators: February is Indiana Digital Learning Month!** The IDOE is partnering with organizations and educators to provide multiple training opportunities. The focus is on strengthening student learning experiences with the effective use of technology in a blended learning environment. Check out the [Indiana Digital Learning Month website](#) for details on upcoming events, and follow the #INDLmonth hashtag where IDOE will share resources and invite educators to connect with one another. Contact Meri Carnahan at the IDOE at mcarnahan@doe.in.gov with questions.



3. **For all teachers and administrators: Know a teacher who is great at presenting and would want to flex their presentation muscles?** From Jason Bailey, formerly with the IDOE:  [SETDA](#) (State Educational Technology Directors Association) is a partner in the work going on in Indiana's [eLearning Lab](#). SETDA is looking for Indiana teachers to be guest presenters for the Indiana eLearning Lab! Virtual workshops run on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays in 30 minute segments. Each workshop will be hosted by Five-Star Technology Solutions and will include an eLearning Lab Team Member as a moderator. Please complete [this Form](#) to be considered as a guest presenter. Someone from Five-Star will be in touch with you.

4. **For all Staff: More from the IDOE's Cybersecurity for Education Toolkit:** Throughout a home or school, everyone can benefit from a reminder, to be vigilant when it comes to practicing good habits while working online, including making sure to always: **1. Keep an updated machine.** Having the latest security software, web browser and operating systems is the best defense against viruses, malware, and online threats. **2. Protect ALL devices that connect to the Internet:** Not just computers; phones and other web-enabled devices, it is crucial to provide cybersecurity for your home or school's systems. **3. Plug and Scan:** Be aware, as USBs and other external devices can be infected by viruses and malware. Work with your school's IT staff to use your system's security software to scan USBs. **4. Back It Up:** Protect your work, music, photos, and other digital information by making electronic copies of all information files and storing them safely, through GoogleDrive or the H: Drive.



Fun Technology Fact: A new laser system that may revolutionize the treatment of cancers and help surgeons remove them without damaging healthy tissue is being developed by scientists. Experts at Heriot-Watt University in Edinburgh, Scotland are working on the system based around ultrafast, picosecond lasers that deliver energy in a series of pulses one trillionth of a second long. I just learned what a picosecond is. [Read more of the article here.](#)