



EAST ALLEN COUNTY SCHOOLS

DREAM IT. DO IT.

EACS Technology Newsletter January 29, 2021

1. **For all 7-12 staff:** As approved by the Board of School Trustees on Tuesday, January 19, EACS bought new HP laptops and docking stations for all staff in all 7-12 buildings, including the Admin Annex, the Administrative Building, and the Transportation/Maintenance Building. We expect delivery in late April/early May, and distribution should be in May or at the beginning of the summer. We plan on video tutorials for staff on saving files to H:Drive/Shared Drive, saving browser favorites, and other important preparations. Staff may keep their old monitor to have a 2nd screen, if preferred. The laptop and power pack may come/go from school/home, but the docking station will need to stay at school, managing the components used in the classroom/office. More information will be forthcoming. It is the goal of the Technology Department to replace K-6 staff computers with laptops next winter. Please contact Keith Madsen with further questions.



2. **For all teachers: Have you heard of Cateater?** Cateater is Stop Motion Studio, and why the site and the tool are named differently, I have no idea... The [Stop Motion Studio App](#) is in App Portal and the free version is used in several EACS schools. Stop Motion Studio is a powerful, full-featured movie editor with a whole host of features: a simplistic, easy-to-use interface, overlay mode showing the differences between frames, animation guides to position animated objects more easily, and an interactive timeline so you never get lost, even if you have hundreds of frames. **However**, the free version is limited; the paid version costs \$4.99.



3. **For all Skyward users: Experiencing slow screen load times?** We all have experienced slow screen load times. Skyward engineers tell me that slow screen load times are usually a result of complex filters set up on various screens. Skyward engineers advise that the user clears all filters, except the filter(s) we need, in order to speed up the screen loading process.



4. **For all Staff: Do you know about the IDOE's [Digital Learning Toolkit for Teaching and Learning](#):** On this page, you will find a variety of different tools, templates, and examples related to teaching and learning in the digital learning environment. Please check back often as we will be adding new resources. If you have questions about the Digital Learning Toolkit, find a broken link, or would like to propose a resource be added to the list, please complete [this form](#). I love how the IDOE is open to suggestions for new resources!



Fun Technology Fact: Inspired by the molecular structure of Kevlar, a group of researchers from MIT recently developed a new class of small molecules that spontaneously assemble into “nanoribbons” stronger than steel! The team says its surprising findings will likely be applicable for a wide variety of different uses, including battery technology and water decontamination. Their findings were published in the online magazine [Nature Nanotechnology](#) on Jan. 21. Read more of the article [here](#). Science and Technology are SO cool!

