



Brookings School District

Working Together...Educating with Excellence...Inspiring Learners for Life

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TO: Board of Education

FROM: Jason Smidt – Director of Technology

RE: Technology Administrative Report

DATE: 11/4/2024

As the first quarter comes to an end, the Brookings Technology Department continues to support the staff, students, and families of the Brookings School District. I can't believe the 1st quarter is already done and we are heading into Parent/Teacher Conferences. Our team has been extremely busy during the start of the year and we have been working on various projects that will be ongoing throughout the year. Below are a few items I would like to highlight.

- 1. Budget Process for Next Year** – We have begun our needs assessment at each building for technology resources. We like to start this process early to see what needs the staff and students need at each building. We are planning on purchasing new 2nd grade laptops during the summer and getting those out next year to our K-3 schools. We also will be ending our current 1:1 lease at BHS and starting a new lease. We are excited to get new devices at BHS for the 2025-2026 school year. We also will be updating our network infrastructure throughout the district.
- 2. Reminder of Streaming Events** – I also would like to take this opportunity to remind everyone that we do a lot of streaming of live events and archiving of events so community members that cannot be in person to watch the Bobcats in action can watch on many different types of devices at home. We stream all types of events from band/choir concerts to all types of athletic events. To access our BSD Activities, please go to YouTube and search for "Bobcats Live". To access our school board meetings, search for "Brookings Bobcat Network". Please subscribe to those channels so you don't miss out on any of our Bobcat Action! You can watch the YouTube streams from your Smart TV, laptop, phone, or any streaming device.
- 3. Canvas** – We continue to use Canvas as our district wide learning management system. We have been using this system for quite some time now and are really seeing great use of this platform. A Learning Management System (LMS) is a software application or platform designed to facilitate the administration, tracking, reporting, and delivery of educational courses and training programs. It enables organizations, schools, and educators to create, manage, and deliver content, track learner progress, and assess performance.

Key features of an LMS typically include:

Course Management: Tools for creating and organizing courses, modules, and assessments.

User Management: Capabilities to enroll students, assign roles, and manage permissions.

Tracking and Reporting: Analytics to monitor learner progress, completion rates, and performance.

Content Delivery: Support for various formats, such as videos, quizzes, and interactive activities.

Communication Tools: Features like discussion forums, messaging, and notifications to facilitate interaction between learners and instructors.

Accessibility: Often designed to be accessible from various devices, allowing for remote learning.

We utilize Canvas at the K-12 level. Our students have become familiar with the program as well as our staff. We also have trained staff on the use of Canvas as an educational tool.

4. **Tech Spotlights** – Starting next month, I will be including a Tech Spotlight of our Technology classes throughout the district. Next month will be our K-3 tech classes. We will learn about what is being taught at the K-3 level.