TO: Board of Education

FROM: Jason Smidt – Director of Technology

RE: Technology Administrative Report

DATE: 12/2/2024

As we come closer to the end of 2024 and moving into 2025, the Brookings School District Technology Staff continues to support the great staff and students at the Brookings School District. So far this school year has been off to a great start! As I walk through the buildings and see our students utilizing the technology they have, I just want to thank the staff we have for integrating technology into their curriculum so creatively and efficiently. Teachers using interactive whiteboards, students presenting from their devices, and collaboration across the board are just a few of the great things happening in our district through the use of technology. Here are a few of the things we are working on right now as well as a new feature. I am adding a Tech Spotlight to my board reports to talk about the great things that our Tech Teachers are doing across the district. This month's Tech Spotlight is on our K-3 Technology Teachers at DP, Medary, and Hillcrest.

1. **Multi Factor Authentication** - The Brookings Technology Department is starting the process of using Multi Factor Authentication with our staff. Multi-factor authentication, also known as MFA, is a feature that provides an extra layer of security by requiring an additional piece of information (or "factor") to prove your identity. This has been an initiative from the K12 Data Center. Currently our IT staff and our Superintendent utilize MFA. We are looking to add our building administrators next. Soon to follow will be having our teachers and all the rest of our staff using MFA to protect our accounts. We are excited about this extra level of security and are looking forward to implementing it.

2. **BSD Foundation Website** – I just wanted to take this opportunity to remind everyone about the Brookings School District Foundation Website. This is the place for all the information regarding our foundation. Our director is Kyleigh Cramer and if you have any questions about how to donate to the BSD foundation, please go to the website. What a great way to give back to the Bobcats and help out the students of the Brookings School District.   The site is located at https://brookingsbobcatfoundation.org/ and can be found by visiting https://brookings.k12.sd.us

3. **Winter Break** – The Brookings Technology Department will also be doing some upgrades, backups, and other maintenance over the two-week winter break. This is a great time for us to be able to get some things done that require our staff and students to be off the network.

4. **K-3 Tech Spotlight** – Our first Tech Spotlight highlights the K-3 Tech teaching staff. This includes Andrea Fish, Kristin Tronback, Mandy Smidt, and Darcie Malcolm. They teach JK through 3rd grade. Various skills are taught by these teachers including coding, robots, google drive, keyboarding, digital citizenship, online safety, and much more. Here is what is being taught right now by Darcie Malcolm (HC Tech Teacher)

    "Hillcrest has been working on learning keyboarding and how Google Drive Programs work for educational purposes. 2nd Grade learners are currently working on putting information on google slides about a new animal they have found in the wild. They used an online program to build the animal that can be made up from 4 different animals. Once the animal was made, the students then had to name their new species and types some fun facts about the animal on a google slide.   3rd grade just finished learning how Google Docs work and Google Slides. The students made Turkeys by using different command features like copy/paste, ordering of shapes, and other commands. They also started learning about the difference between right clicking and using shortcut keys. Next, the topic Hillcrest Students will be working on is coding and programming. They will use a variety of coding activities including: Code.org, Micro-bit, Sphero's, Dot n Dash, and Botley's. Students love this unit!"