



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: 4/7/2025

As we move into the month of April, the Brookings Technology Department continues to support the students and staff of the Brookings School District. This includes providing support for audio/visual, computer, multimedia, voice, video, and web-based applications. We also promote and facilitate the effective integration of technology. Our ticket site is always available for staff to contact us with any technology issues they run into. We also have been preparing for our summer work. Our summers are a very busy time to get things ready for the following school year.

1. **Testing** – Testing time of year is coming upon us. The technology department as well as our teachers will begin preparations for the state testing that will be coming up soon. We also continue to support our NWEA testing which happens throughout the year. Our Smarter Balanced testing for grades 3-8 and 11 will occur during this month. BHS will be testing first at the beginning of April and our 3-8 graders will be testing at all the schools by the end of the month of April. We will be remotely installing the testing browsers on all our student devices across our district.
2. **Technology Prices** – As many of you may have seen, prices on technology equipment are on the rise. Tariffs are now in effect for goods imported from China and that will include any kind of tech device. A large majority

of electronics are produced in China. This will not only affect personal purchases but will also affect our school technology purchases going forward. We will be monitoring this and working with our budgets to make reasonable adjustments.

3. **Samantha Shout-out** – I would also like to take this opportunity to give a “shout-out” to our Online Resources and Communications Assistant Samantha Turnquist. Samantha started working with us this year and has done an amazing job in her position! She has improved our district website and district communication processes so much in the short time she has been here. She also has been working with our secretaries and other staff to improve our efficiency in many areas. Thank you, Samantha, for all you do for the staff and students of the Brooking School District.

4. **BHS Lease Finalized** – Last month, we also finalized our BHS student device lease for the upcoming 4 years. Many thanks to all the individuals involved in this. This is such a long and important process but is very rewarding and helps our students so much. We are very excited to get our new devices and begin installing and implementing them. We also are so happy that the price on our lease went down from the last lease. This is a very exciting time for technology at BHS.