TECHNOLOGY NEWS
ANDREW TOMASHEWSKY
SHARED TIME TECHNOLOGY

WELCOME

Welcome to a newsletter with information about technology classes at Immanuel, St. Paul and Zion Lutheran Schools in Bay City. My hope is to share information about what we are learning a couple times throughout the year. If you ever have questions, please feel free to contact me.
Fast Direct - Immanuel and St. Paul
atomashewsky@gocavs.net

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL LEARNING

During February the elementary school students focused on different ways to be creative using technology. Many times when we use technology we are consuming (taking in) information or media. The Kindergarten - 2nd grade students recently spent time creating using some online resources that utilized their creativity. Clickable websites we used included Canva and Google Drawings.

3rd-4th grade students have been working on a review of using Google Docs and Google Slides. These are the most used parts of Google Suite along with Google Classroom. They have worked on formatting text and slides, including and citing pictures from the Google Apps for Education (GAFE) Suite and a Google image search.

FREE CHOICE OPPORTUNITY

Check out the next page for info about how your child can earn a free choice in Technology class during the week after Spring Break.

MIDDLE SCHOOL LEARNING

The Middle School students have been learning about the impact of technology addiction and how companies use strategies to help us become addicted to our devices, apps, and websites. Some of those tactics include infinite scrolling, bright colors to gain our attention, and notifications that keep us coming back to their product. Below are some quotes from the students on what they're going to do to combat this….

- *One action step I could take is to put a limit on my screen time for my phone or tv. I could have a limit like certain times, or set a timer for a while, then move on to something else. I believe this is important because you need balance in life and if I'm always on my phone and don't take a break, I could miss out on a lot of other things and too much time can be bad for you.*

- *One action step I could take is to think of alternative ways to have fun or be entertained. I have some hobbies I like to do but I easily get distracted from them because of social media or other online activities. I believe that is important for me because my hobbies define who I am in some ways. I have a hobby for making card games, board games, etc. These can show people what I'm good at and what I can do that stands out of just being a regular person with a internet addiction. This could also help me with real life situations like having a conversation with someone about what my talents or skills are.*

> ## "
> ## TECHNOLOGY IN THE CLASSROOM IS NOT THE END GOAL. ENABLING LEARNING EVERYWHERE IS THE GOAL.
> ## ANDREW BARRAS

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CYBER SECURITY

Recently, I took a workshop class for renewal of my teaching license that focused on steps students (and adults) can learn to better secure their personal information, identity, and devices. Students are already aware of developing the habits of updating their device as updates become available and signing out of their devices when they are done. Each of these are simple daily jobs that keep them safe. Additionally, the class focused on phishing, multifactor authentication, and password security. For more information about each of these, please look at the infographic I created called *Potholes on the Road to Cybersecurity Safety* on the next page.

GRADE LEVEL FOCUS

Each cluster of grade groups has a different set of skills students are working on throughout the year. Below is what your child focuses on during our time together.

- Kindergarten-2nd grade - use a mouse, mousepad, desktop, web browser, and know different parts and kinds of devices. What this is like depends on the school your child attends.
- 3rd-5th grades - begin typing instruction in 3rd grade and use of Google platform (Classroom, Docs and Slides)
- 6th-8th grades - advanced typing and use of online resources to create projects using Google platform and other websites

OPTIONAL ACTIVITY

Your child can earn a free activity pass (no typing or required game) by going to the address below and talking with your child(ren) about 2 or 3 of the questions. The cards were created to *celebrate positive uses of technology, explore creative pursuits, and encourages taking time for important conversations about how to best use personal devices. Try picking a card and having a chat with your kids after school, during a meal, in the car, or during a quiet moment. Pop them in your bag and use them when the occasion arises.*

Please let me know when you have talked about the questions with your child(ren). Please include one answer your family discussed. This can be done by Fast Direct messaging me for Immanuel and St. Paul's students or via email at ***atomashewsky@gocavs.net***. Please do this by March 28 so that your child has a free choice day during the week after Spring Break.

*bit.ly/m*ediaprompts

Potholes on the road to cybersecurity safety

Andrew Tomashewsky

Carrollton Public Schools

Multifactor authentication is a combination of logging onto your device and entering a PIN to verify that you have appropriate access to an account. Usually the PIN is sent via text or email.

Phishing is a scam to acquire information about users by contacting them via email, phone, or message. Once the scam starts identity and financial information can be used maliciously.

Strong passwords are effective way to keep others from gaining access your online accounts. A strong password includes at least 16 characters of lower and upper letters, numbers and symbols.

Some websites and accounts give the option to *turn off* **multifactor authentication.** Please *do not*. It's an extra layer of security for your protection. Also, safeguard your phone's SIM card info since this info can be used in scams involving authentication.

The biggest help to avoid a **phishing scam** is to use common sense. If you receive a message from someone you don't know, *don't click*. Even if it appears legitimate, be suspicous and know for sure before clicking.

To help with **password security**, consider using a password manager to have one master password where you can access all of your strong passwords. You can also use passkeys, where available, to keep your accounts safe.

Cybersecurity is everyone's responsibility, so please help keep our devices and network working for our needs by being aware of these possible potholes.