

TECHNOLOGY NEWS

ANDREW TOMASHEWSKY
SHARED TIME TECHNOLOGY

NOVEMBER 2025 NEWSLETTER

WELCOME

Welcome to a newsletter with information about technology classes at Immanuel, St. John, 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, St. John, and St. Paul or via email at atomashewsky@gocavs.net

ABOUT ME

I have taught arts and/or technology for Carrollton since 2015. Before that I was a school administrator and taught in Lutheran schools in Maryland and Indiana. My wife teaches ELA classes at Trinity (Monitor). My son, Micah, attends John Glenn High School and Lillia is a freshman at Calvin University in Grand Rapids where she is studying to be a graphic designer. As a family we enjoy traveling, playing board games, and attending our kids' events and sporting events. This summer our family went to Hawaii and enjoyed some relaxing in the *aloha* spirit.



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 of December 8.

MIDDLE SCHOOL LEARNING

The Middle School students have started learning about artificial intelligence (AI). The focus of the unit is on separating AI fact and fiction, can AI really be a *friend*, and looking critically at how AI can be used in schools, including pros and cons of its use. Some reactions students had to an AI as a *friend* scenario were as follows...

- Artificial Intelligence is programmed to never be mean or hurtful to anyone unless it is told to be that. The AI is coded to put it most simply it can learn and it can grow its data storage, but it is still made by code. Somebody in a building somewhere took the time to code it to learn and grow but it has no emotions and is only there to do what the code says. It can even collect and give your personal information to the coder which is not good. In all it's simple just a machine/program doing what it was meant and told to do not a being with emotion just a hollow data collector.
- No, she should not. It isn't good to become friends with ai because there aren't real people. Just think about if you're friends with ai you're friends with a robot. Instead of talking to ai and becoming friends with it you should talk to an adult first or another actual human. It's just weird to be friends with ai plus you don't get to have human interactions. So I think you shouldn't be friends with ai.

“**TECHNOLOGY IN THE CLASSROOM IS NOT THE END GOAL.
ENABLING LEARNING EVERYWHERE IS THE GOAL.**

ANDREW BARRAS

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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

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Currently, I'm enrolled in an AI cohort through the Michigan Association of Computer Users and Learners. The course has been focused on how to create a community of practice so that teachers know how to share the best ways to use AI with other teachers and with students and their families. Following Christmas break, I look forward to sharing with you the resource I'm creating for families as a requirement for the course.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL LEARNING

Since the beginning of the year, the elementary school students have focused on what is included in each school's acceptable use policy and ways they can be cybersafe. This included learning about phishing, online privacy, what is and is not sharing personal information, and digital rights and responsibilities. The Kindergarten - 2nd grade students also have been learning some computer terminology words such as mouse, web browser, home page, address bar, and website address.

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



OPTIONAL ACTIVITY

Your child can earn a free activity pass (no typing or required game) by going to the address below and answering the *AI Family Quiz*. If you have any questions or need help accessing the Google Form, please let me know via Fast Direct or messaging me via email at atomashewsky@gocavs.net. Please complete this Form by December 1 so that your child has a free choice day during the week of December 8.

bit.ly/aifamilyquiz