

ED-TECH NEWS

EAST STROUDSBURG AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT/ED-TECH/FALL2009



Greetings,

During my first year with ESASD, I have seen many fantastic ways teachers are integrating technology into their curriculum, and the end result is the creative and innovative work being accomplished by the students. The summer has been very busy for us as we prepared for the opening of school. Some of the major accomplishments were the installation of a new video broadcasting studio at South HS, upgrading our Internet content filter, preparing the ProgressBook Parent Portal for the Elementary Schools, relocating our data center from the old administration building, installing new computers at J.T. Lambert, Lehman, Smithfield and Resica, as well as updating and reimaging the remainder of the computers in the other six schools. The district is well on its way to preparing students for a 21st century global economy, and the ITEC department will continue providing support to ensure we stay the course.

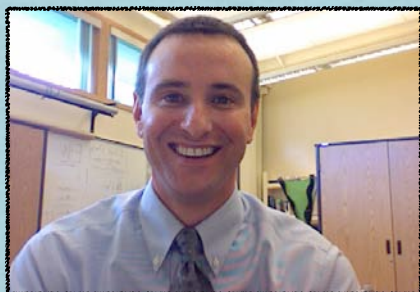
Brian Borosh, Director of Technology



Oh the Places You'll Go

With the assistance of 21st Century technology, students from around the East Stroudsburg Area School District have been experiencing education from afar. With assistance and training from district technology integration specialists, Brooke Langan, Shawn Wescott and Joe Martin, students had the opportunity to take "virtual field trips" like Planet Hopping with NASA, interacting with Holocaust survivor Gerda Weissmann Klein, running mission stations for Operation Montserrat and Target Moon, or

chatting with authors (Jackson Jones and the Puddle of Thorns' Mary Quattlebaum and The Soloist's Steve Lopez) just to name a few. Many classes also had the chance to collaborate between classrooms throughout the district. Each school in the district is equipped with the distance learning equipment, so check with your Schedule B computer coach for availability or a district Instructional Technology Specialist (see below) for assistance selecting the right event for you.



JOE MARTIN joseph-martin@esasd.net 424-8430x1135
Joe came to ESASD from PMSD in 2003. He taught Business Education at the North HS before being selected as the district's CFF coach in 2007. Since then, he has helped numerous teachers incorporate technology into their daily plans.



BROOKE K. LANGAN brooke-langan@esasd.net 424-8430x1136
Brooke has been a secondary teacher within the district since 1997. Beginning her career as an English teacher @ JTL, she transferred to teach TV/Video Production at the South HS before moving into her tech position in 2008.



SHAWN WESCOTT shawn-wescott@esasd.net 424-8430x1137
Shawn is an elementary teacher who has been integrating technology into his 3rd grade classroom since he started @ JMHill in 1999. He is currently serving as an Instructional Technology Specialist for Maureen Seidel while she is on family leave.

Meet Your Technicians



Name:
Oliver Trojak

Building:
TLC (Technology & Learning Center)

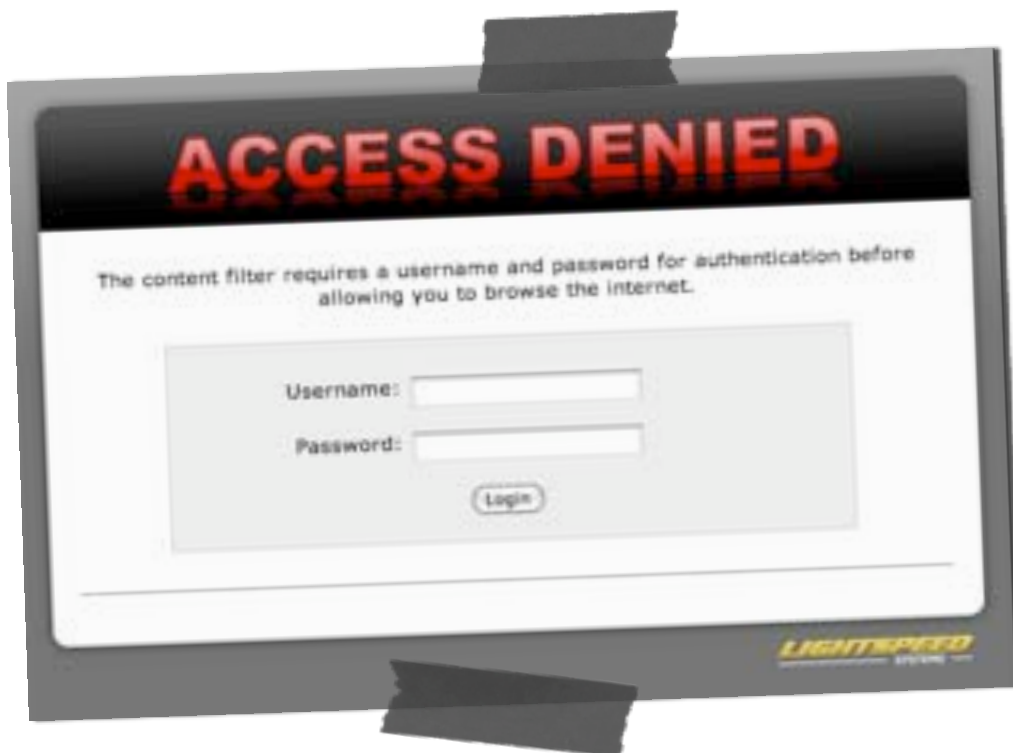
Years with District:
I started in June 05. I became full time in July 07.

Technician's Tip:
Backup, Backup, Backup!
Backup your files on a regular basis. All non-solid state hard drives have a mean time to failure. This means that at some point the mechanical parts in your hard drive are going to fail.

A Little About Me:
I am a 2006 graduate from EHS and currently pursuing degrees in Computer Security and Computer Science at ESU. It's exciting to be part of ESASD's technology support. I look forward to seeing how each of you leverage technology in your classrooms. Each year I become more impressed with the advanced lessons many of you create utilizing our district's technology. Keep up the good work!

It's a Bird, It's a Plane...It's LightSpeed!

ESASD's new content filtering system



LightSpeed is the new content filtering system we are now employing to keep out the negative aspects of the World Wide Web and keep our students safe while online. LightSpeed allows teachers more access to the sites that were previously untouchable. It also provides tiered access for users, allowing teachers more professional privileges when using the Internet for educational purposes. If by chance you can't access a necessary site, just contact ITEC with the site address (URL) and your educational intentions and they will do their best to make this site accessible.

OUR SUPPORT: TERRY, MARIA & THE TECHNICIANS



Terry Lazor terry-lazor@esasd.net
424-8500 x1616

Terry has been running the ESASD Help Desk for the past year and a half. She regularly assists callers with username & password resets, Progressbook, NWEA/Maps and other technical issues.

EHS
louis-carbajal@esasd.net
424-8500 x2584
EHN, LIS & BES (North Campus)
william-vitulli@esasd.net
588-4420 x2411
nicholas-hoffman@esasd.net
588-4420 x2413
JTL
gary-macmahon@esasd.net
424-8430 x4411
JMH, MSS & Webmaster
john-renna@esasd.net
424-8073 x1010 JMH
223-8082 x1211 MSS
RES, SMI & ESE
robinson-rodriguez@esasd.net
424-6911 x2068 RES
421-5841 x1404 SMI
421-1905 x1103 ESE
CFF/Special Projects
oliver-trojak@esasd.net



Maria Heitz maria-heitz@esasd.net
424-8500 x1350

Maria has been with the ITEC department since March 08. Many department chairs will recognize her for her constant help with technology pricing and requisitions as well as tracking all the district purchases.

Moodle Goes Under the Knife



Welcome back to another school year, Moodle Users! I have received a facelift while you have been enjoying summer break. First, usernames and passwords for teachers will now match your internet and Novell passwords from last year. No more remembering multiple usernames and passwords, hooray! Next, you will notice once you log in that you are directed to a "My Moodle" page, from here you will have access to all courses you are enrolled in. My Moodle is great in the fact that it will highlight all upcoming assignments and quizzes for students once they are logged in. Fear not, you still have access to the ESASD directory from the left hand side of My Moodle or by not logging in immediately.

Another great feature for Moodle teachers is the new ability to "drag & drop" all items throughout your page. No longer do you have to move things with the up/down & left/right arrows; just drag the item wherever you want it and let go...it will stick. A progressive feature newly added during my facelift is Instant Messaging. It is currently turned off but if you see the educational value in it, you may request it for your students by contacting JR Renna, ESASD Webmaster. Also, please keep in mind that the Blog feature of Moodle is public. Anything that is written or uploaded can be accessed by ALL users. Students have started using this feature to store items for later retrieval but are not fully aware that others could just as easily retrieve their uploads also.

Please make them aware for fear of plagiarism and confidentiality issues. Instead, recommend they use their Novell Net Storage for private documents and such.

Finally, with my new upgrade, I have received some great new plugins that you and your

students might like. Under "Add an Activity" you will see items like webquests, games, projects and more. Take a look at all the new things I can bring to your class and students. I'm new and improved for a great school year. See you @ My Moodle.

NEW TECH PROGRAMS UNVEILED @ ESASD



eTech Academy (Teachers):

With the close of the CFF (Classrooms for the Future) & GTO (Getting to One) grants, we are pleased to announce a new technology program for elementary and secondary teachers who are interested in learning all aspects of educational technology. Our eTech Academy aims to train teachers in 21st Century learning through professional development, learner communities and one-to-one support. Keep an eye out for the upcoming email about this opportunity.

eTeam Wizards (Students):







This year we are also pleased to announce the start of a tech wizard program for each of the district's high schools. Two students per grade from each high school will be selected to take part in an intensive, year long technology academy that will benefit both teachers and students alike. eTeam Wizards will receive training in the latest technological applications that will enhance the educational goals of the district. In turn, these students will become a support system for other students and teachers interested in integrating technology. Starting in September, students will apply for this opportunity. Please help us in drumming up interest in this capstone program.



Who's Your Schedule B?

Who Is Your Schedule B Computer Assistant?

This is something you should know. Did you realize you have one or more of these people in your building to help with your computer needs? Their job responsibilities include:

-  providing basic support and advice to other faculty and staff on technology integrations and planning
-  assisting in making simple trouble-shooting or repairs on computers, printers and network connections
-  monitoring computer labs and printers for such things as general neatness, paper supply and toner cartridges
-  conducting technology training sessions
-  access to Open Office for conversion of student documents if necessary
-  sharing technology issues with technicians and building principal

Please get to know and use your Schedule B Computer Assistant; they are your first-level trouble-shooters and a valuable technology resource in your building.

Computer Assistants



BES-Libby, Tina
ESE-Conklin, Donna
ESE-Hegarty, Susan
JMH-Husson, Jennifer
MSI-Guida, Emile
MSI-Karpe, Michael
RES-Hnasko, Scott
SMI-Gambil, Geoffrey
JTL-Henritzy, Anthony
JTL-Toth, Terry
LIS-Pattison, Gayle
LIS-Zelinski, Jan
EHN-Dobrowolski, Darrin
EHN-Edwards, Sean
EHN-Panepinto, Carrie
EHS-Rogers, Denise
EHS-Spece, Jennifer
EHS-Carson, Wayne



TECHNOLOGY & EDUCATION



FROM MRS. DUGGINS' DESKTOP:

By the year 2012, technology literacy will be a part of our nation's report card. With this in mind, we have formed a K-12 Technology Steering Committee to develop a technology scope and sequence. We hope to develop grade-level projects K-8 to integrate 21st century skills, including technology literacy skills. This will require collaboration among teachers, job-embedded professional development, and support from our technology integration coaches. Our vision is to ensure that all students have access to a teaching and learning environment capable of preparing them to learn more complex and analytical skills in preparation for work and life in the 21st century global economy. Given its power to engage and motivate students, technology is essential to the strategies we are using to develop these higher order thinking and performance skills.

RIP cavalier.net

As many of you have noticed already, your Moodle and Internet username and password have been standardized. However, please remember to change your password to ensure confidentiality. This can be done @ <http://www.esasd.net/pwchange/>

Also, be aware that if you are still using the cavalier.net ending to you email, it has been eliminated. Please use esasd.net instead.

Spam-A-Lot

Towards the end of last school year, ITEC installed a new spam filter. Its job is to eliminate the massive amounts of spam sneaking through our system. With this system in place, all email users have started receiving a daily "Mail Summary" email. This is a summary of all the mail you receive daily, both accepted and spam. If you have received what you think is spam, you have the ability to go to the mail summary the next day and choose to block that email in the future by clicking on the "block always" button.

You can also use this email to check whether an expected email went into spam by accident.

SPAM FACTS:

*LightSpeed has blocked over 950,000 spams during the past 30 days.

*LightSpeed is blocking 95% of all incoming spam.

*Unfortunately no spam filter is 100% accurate; keep selecting "Block Always" for the spam that sneaks through.