



In the Know...Tech Talks...February 2018

Please find all of the recent [Avon Grove In the Know - Tech Talks](#) on the AGSD website.

Curriculum Portal: How AGSD curriculum documents are accessible on the web is about to get a massive upgrade. Current curriculum documents are prepared in EdInsight, converted into PDFs, and then posted individually to the web. The new curriculum portal will link directly to an online 'filing cabinet' of curriculum documents that can be filtered by subject, course or title. This will permit parents and the public more and faster access to approved curriculum. The curriculum portal will be nested on the '[Academics](#)' pages with links to the online filing cabinet. Additionally, this improved access to curriculum documents satisfies the federal Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG). Stay tuned for the official release of the [new curriculum portal](#).

Mike's Minute: You may have heard about Gigabit bandwidth connections from TV commercials. Bandwidth is an allocated volume that device traffic can travel through (an internet pipe) and is measured by Megabits per second (Mbps). If the internet pipe is full then there is no more room for other individuals to connect to the web. Avon Grove has nearly reached the maximum capacity our current 1 Gigabit (1000 Mbps) bandwidth. To make room for our continued technological growth, Avon Grove will be doubling our bandwidth to 2 Gigabits. ChescoNet, our ISP (Internet Service Provider), is making the upgrades to handoff the additional bandwidth to accommodate all the district tech needs this spring.

LMC Training: AGSD is partnering with the Oxford Area School District on a full day of training for Learning Media Center (LMC) staff on Thursday, March 1st. The training will work towards maximizing the use of resources (print and digital) in the Destiny library management system. Destiny software is the industry standard for schools and what the students use to 'check-out' books from the library. Each district is sending ten representatives to the training being held at Avon Grove High School and being facilitated by an expert from the Destiny parent company, Follett.

Chris' Cookies & Karen's Korner: As you continue to use Schoology to enhance the learning opportunities for your students, working with Open Educational Resources (OER) will become an important resource for you. The wonderful thing about OER is that the resources are free, not copyrighted, and useful for teaching, learning, and assessing. Open Educational Resources don't just include text, but also includes media and other digital material. Recently, [CK-12](#) was added as an app to all Schoology pages. CK-12 is a platform that provides OER materials, and with the Schoology app, allows to you seamlessly embed lessons, articles, or 'Flexbooks' right onto your Schoology materials page. Use these [directions](#) to implement CK-12. Additionally, The OER Commons provides PA aligned OER materials via the PAIU net HUB. Once in the OER Commons you can join content and grade level groups to share resources. You can also find lecture notes, simulations, textbooks, etc. Use these [directions](#) and resources to implement OER Commons. Stay tuned for more on how to effectively utilize OER materials in your classrooms.



Kat's Kilobytes: We all hear buzz words like 'cloud' and 'cloud storage.' But, what does that mean? The cloud is simply the internet. Cloud storage refers to storing data on the internet. At AGSD, we use cloud storage every day. Google Drive and (Microsoft) One Drive are both cloud storage solutions. Our technology coaches, Karen Norris and Chris Montagna, have been working with staff to move files from P drives to Google Drive or One Drive. When we use P drives, all the files are stored on our own local servers and backed up to another on-site server. Collectively, all of these files take up a lot data space on our servers and require regular maintenance at a cost of time and money. Accessing our files on our P drives outside of the district is also restricted. Moving our files to cloud storage allows us to store an infinite amount of data, the files are backed up automatically, and we can access our files from any internet connection. Because Google Drive or One Drive hosts these files, little to no maintenance is required. If you have not moved your files to cloud storage yet, you will see information coming from Chris or Karen soon!

Clint's Clues: What are AGHS students doing in the AGtv studio? Avon Grove has a new monthly show titled 'Spotlight on Education' that is already heading into the fifth episode. This student-created series highlights the great things happening in our District and features former Philadelphia Channel 3 KYW News anchor Beth Trapani as the series host. Check out the finished episodes at [AGtv Channel 1](#) and stay tuned for topics like Robotics & Coding, the Educational Foundation and the Learning Showcase, plus a full range of uplifting and informational topics. Additionally, the AGtv student crew has several new shows in the works that are sure to impress through their creativity and talent with this digital media!

Wendy's Wire: Plans to update the parent contact fields in PowerSchool are currently underway with a new enhancement due for release. This new enhancement, 'Unlimited Student Contacts,' will replace both the existing PowerSchool parent contacts, emergency contacts, and our custom field contacts. New features in this new enhancement will allow for the consolidation of duplicate contacts, create new custom reports, and integrate with web access accounts. Unlimited Student Contacts will also fully integrate with PowerTeacher Pro, giving direct access of student contact information to teachers. Changes will also be published to a new page in the Administrative portal. Additional familial relationships can be identified and tracked, such as aunts, uncles, grandparents, or neighbors. Many of these new fields will be included in state reports in the future.

Gary's Goal - Nutanix Installation: Network virtualization is the process of combining hardware and software resources and network functionality into a single, software-defined administrative entity called a virtual network. To meet the current demands and plan for the next five to seven years of future growth, a thorough review of new virtual environments was conducted in the fall as we prepared for a major upgrade this spring. We selected a hyper-converged virtual network called [Nutanix](#). The Nutanix hyper-converged platform is fully software-defined and controlled administratively via one interface allowing for faster processing, increased data consolidation, automatic load balancing and ease of management. Additionally, Nutanix has the lowest cost of annual ownership and streamlines the backup and disaster recovery processes! It will take about three days to install the new environment, and then we will begin the data migration process. **There will be intermittent system-wide outages during the data migration process.** The majority of these outages will take place outside of the student day and/or during spring break. Please stay tuned for the exact outage dates and times.