



## In the Know...Tech Talks...October 2018

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

**Karen's Korner:** Are you tired of submitting helpdesk tickets to unblock every video blocked in YouTube's Restricted Mode? Do you need your students to have instant access to a blocked YouTube video? Do you want your students to watch a video without all the distractions on the side panels? If you answered 'yes' to any of these questions then try SafeYouTube. With SafeYouTube you will be able to get a new link to the video that will clear YouTube Restricted Mode. This link then can easily be placed into Schoology for instant student access. Give [SafeYouTube](#) a try today!

**Matt's Metadata:** Sometimes we see something cool in another system like SeeSaw and wonder if there is a way to implement it using Schoology. One such feature Schoology can facilitate is the ability for students to send messages directly to their parents. With messages to parents, students are empowered to document and share their learning through pictures and video. You can think of it as a 'Schoology Update' initiated by the student instead of the teacher. Now, when students get excited about their school work they don't have to wait for the culmination of the project to share; they can send their parents glimpses of their progress along the way. Give Schoology [Student-to-Parent Messaging](#) a try soon! Please share your experiences and success stories as students share their work using this method.

**Kat's Kilobytes:** There are so many options for data storage today. There are flash drives, portable hard drives and cloud storage services. Some of the most familiar cloud storage services are Google Drive, Microsoft One Drive and DropBox. While DropBox offers similar storage services, and we all have flash drives and portable drives, storing student data outside of the district-provided Google Drive (@myagsd.net) and One Drive (@avongrove.org) locations do not comply with FERPA and HIPAA regulations. In addition to legal compliance, AGSD cloud storage locations allow us to retain and recover files in the case of data loss. If you think you may be storing district data somewhere other than Google Drive (@myagsd.net) or One Drive (@avongrove.org) and need help moving your files to your district drive, please submit a Help Desk ticket and a technology specialist will be happy to assist.



**Wendy's Wire:** PowerSchool data is used in a variety of ways, including PDE reporting, transportation routes, state testing, student health, and food services. Additionally, the Federal Department of Education collects some of this information through Civil Rights Data Collection, or CRDC reporting. CRDC information includes enrollment demographics, preschool, math and science courses, Advanced Placement courses, SAT and ACT scores, discipline incidents, school expenditures, and teacher experience. These reports are completed and submitted to the Department of Education biennially. You can view additional information about CRDC reporting [here](#).

**Clint's Clues:** What's AGtv up to now? VR and AR! In this issue we'll review VR. Virtual Reality is video content created with software and cameras that sees the whole world as we do, seeing a 360° picture and being able to see anywhere in that picture by 'looking around'. The way you look around is dependent on the device you use. For desktops and laptops it can be the mouse. For mobile devices it can be holding that device and moving it around to see different areas of the 360° picture. The best experience is with VR goggles that move with your head changing your view naturally as you look around. Avon Grove has great VR resources in the form of our mobile [Google Expeditions](#) carts. Contact your school technology specialist to access Google Expeditions, which will let your students visit new places in time and space, and are supported by a large body of online content and teaching resources. Also, be on the lookout for locally made VR content as AGtv now has a VR camera and is working to create VR tours of our buildings and campuses. Next month, what is AR?

**Mike's Minute:** Recently, we made a major improvement in Avon Grove's Disaster Recovery (DR) solution. We partnered with our new hyper-converged virtual environment provider Nutanix, and their DR solution called Xi (pronounced z-eye). In the event of a national emergency or natural disaster, we have cloud services that secure our data in multiple offsite locations, making it accessible on-demand. Not to be confused with Backups, which is a local service for restoring lost data, DR is a service where Avon Grove resources are accessible from anywhere on the planet, at any time, even if we can't be onsite. While we hope to never need our DR solution, we are ready to maintain the pace of teaching and learning for our students and teachers.

**Gary's Goal – Student Access to Green Technologies:** With the new Avon Grove High School on the horizon, *now* is the time for our students to begin interacting with the Green Technology that may be incorporated into the final design of the new AGHS. Solar energy, water conservation techniques and wind energy are three readily accessible Green Technologies our students can safely and affordably interact with in STEM related activities. One idea currently being explored is the construction and management of mobile, solar-powered Chromebook charging station where students can plug-in during the school day for a quick charge. Look for more information about this exciting Green Technology project, and more in the coming months!