



## In the Know...Tech Talks...September 2017

### We're Glad You're Back!

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

**Teacher Technology Institute:** On August 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> the Teacher Technology Institute hosted 13 teacher-led tech sessions where 54 different teachers occupied 139 learning seats. A sampling of session topics included: Integrating the Makerspace into your Curriculum; Coding is for Everyone; Google Expeditions for ELA Teachers; 30 Amazing Productivity Apps; The Intersection of Chrome and Android; Accessing OER Content; and 1:1 Final Prep. Special thanks goes to **Karen Norris** and **Chris Montagna**, Avon Grove's extraordinary Instructional Technology Coaches!

#### **Karen's Korner & Chris' Cookies:** 2017-18 Schoology Benchmarks

Ten informational meetings focused on blended learning have been attended by over 900 parents this school year and Chromebooks are already traveling home with the students in grades 6, 7, 8 and 9! **All Teachers in AGSD** shall implement the [Schoology](#) benchmarks below by the end of September. Remember that our goals in establishing these steps are to help support our students and parents in accessing important information and content for their classes as well as allow students who are absent or lose materials to be able to access, learn, and complete at home. Please [email](#) us if you have any questions, thank you!

1. Profile is updated
2. Class Information
  - a) Secondary – Syllabus/course description is posted
  - b) Elementary – Post class updates twice a month
3. Homework (not classwork) – If unfinished classwork becomes homework, it needs to be posted
  - a) Posted as Assignments (not Events)
  - b) Time – Before the end of the student day with enough time to download files
  - c) Using the established naming convention
  - d) If there is a document/article or other resource needed to complete the homework, it is posted in the Assignment Description box (no hunting around for it)
    - i) All 'paper' resources are transferred and converted to Google Docs and PDFs
    - (1) Exception Example: Where a Microsoft/Adobe product is being taught as part of the curriculum or a specific Excel file in Science is needed.
4. Folders organized chronologically, newest at the top of the materials list
5. Use 'Grading Groups' to differentiate assignments/tests/quizzes

**Full Day K:** All the necessary infrastructure and end user technology was successfully installed in the PLES modular classrooms and full day Kindergarten classrooms by mid-August. This included: Fiber optics connecting the mods to the school; network switches on both ends of this fiber; Wireless access points in each classroom; VOIP phones with paging in each classroom; An interactive projection system in each classroom; a shared printer for the mods, and teacher laptops and student Chromebooks in each classroom. Special thanks goes to **Mike Tustin** and **Kat Lawyer**, Avon Grove's Network and Systems Specialists for their dedication to accomplish all this before the teachers returned!



**Kat's Kilobytes:** One of the important enhancements completed this summer was implementing a new print server and process to load printers on computers. The new print server has more processing power and is able to handle a larger workload than our old print server. All printers have new labels with their name and IP address for easy identification. Previously, adding printers to computers was a manual process that was not always easy to understand. Now, all printers for your primary building are automatically loaded. If you haven't done so yet, the only thing left to do is [set a default printer](#) on your computer. Going to another building and need to print? No problem! You can add any printer manually; just follow this [how-to](#) on our [Staff](#) page.

**Mike's Minute:** In August, the 'AGSD-Guest' wireless network received an upgrade. The new access process is streamlined and easier to use with any Wi-Fi capable device. Additional mobile carriers are also now available (i.e. AT&T, T-Mobile) and the process is less dependent upon receiving a confirmation before access is granted – Just submit the necessary information and you will be granted access! You will also receive a receipt after you're connected. Instructions on how to connect to AGSD-Guest network can be found on the [Staff, Students and Parents pages of our Website](#).

**Wendy's Wire:** PowerSchool has been upgraded from version 10 to 11! There were many improvements to the overall application, including PowerTeacher Pro. A partial listing of the upgrades includes the addition of the Preferred Class Name, Standards and Full Student Schedule report options, the ability to Import Scores, and a Formatting bar for class, assignment, and category descriptions. New features were added to the Administrator Portal as well to include Remote Enrollments, Mass Enroll Remote Enrollments, and a new Save Changes Warning in Incident Management. Finally, new functions were added to the IOS mobile app that include an updated user interface, Data widgets, Classes, a Calendar with Assignments, and Account Management. Questions? Please [email](#) me.

**Clint's Clues:** The District's focus on STEM opportunities has provided multiple 3D printers for students in grades 3-12 at AGIS, FSEMS and AGHS. New for this year, the high school Art and Tech Ed departments will be sharing a 3D printer in a custom-built display case in Center Court of AGHS. Students, parents and visitors will be able to view this technology in action as they go to and from their destinations. The display case also has room to display sample projects by students. Special thanks to **Matt Ricketts** for constructing the case. The 3D printer and new display case will be installed and functional by the end of September.

**Gary's Goal:** My goal from June was 'a busy summer' and we more than achieved this goal! I think you can see from the updates above that the summer is an incredibly active time for enhancements, major projects and infrastructure upgrades. This progress would be *impossible* without a very dedicated team. I would like to thank **Jordan Pierce** and **Killian Nelson** at AGHS, **Sue Herbert** at FSEMS, **Warren DiEgidio** and **Ian Hutton** at AGIS and **Wanda Shank** at PLES. Wanda has since moved into a new role at PLES, so please welcome **Julie Stewart** as the new Penn London Tech Specialist! Julie joins Avon Grove from West Chester University and has significant experience managing an IT Help Desk. Additionally, special thanks to **Wendy Filla** for the PowerSchool upgrades and **Kat Lawyer** and **Mike Tustin** for the multitude of improvements they facilitated this summer in their respective Systems and Network operations. Avon Grove has a great Tech Team and I hope you appreciate them for their superior service in support of teaching and learning as much as I do.