



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

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

**Karen's Korner & Matt's Megabytes: 2018-19 Schoology Benchmarks...**To meet our goal of supporting our students and parents in accessing important information and content for their classes, as well as allowing students who are absent or lose materials to be able to access, learn, and complete work at home, the following benchmarks shall be implemented by the week of September 24, 2018:

1. **Assignments** posted in Schoology include:
  - a. Title
  - b. Learning Targets
  - c. Directions/Steps for students to complete the assignment
  - d. Directions to submit the assignment electronically
  - e. Due Date
  - f. Category
  - g. How will assignment be scored (points or rubric)
2. Post one **classwork** assignment per course per week/cycle
3. **Embed videos** for classwork and homework when applicable
4. Use the **Assessment tool** to check for student understanding
5. Organize materials with most recent folders at the top
6. Create Grading Groups
7. Connect Gradebooks (year three groups)

Detailed directions and examples can be found on each of these rubrics: [Secondary](#) and [Elementary](#).

**Kat's Kilobytes:** Balancing tech security and ease of access is something all organizations face. Moving from a password policy to a [passphrase](#) policy allows the District to increase security with a passphrase that is easier to remember. This security upgrade was delayed from August 30<sup>th</sup> to align with the launch of our new Self-Serve Passphrase Portal. **The passphrase policy implementation date is Thursday, September 27, 2018.** On the morning of September 27th, **all adult users**, will be prompted to change their passphrase upon first login to a computer. Based on the [NIST](#) standards, new passphrases cannot be the last five used passphrases, part or all of a username or full name, and will require twelve or more characters with three out of four including the following: Upper case, lower case, symbol and number characters (#DemoPa55Phrz). Our new online Self-Serve Passphrase Portal will allow users to reset their own passphrases from home or school using a secure set of predefined user info. More details about the Self-Serve Portal are forthcoming along with training materials from Karen and Matt. Toss those old password sticky notes from under your keyboard and behind your computer screen and start thinking about an EZ2rememberPhrz! Don't let the *Russians* hack your account - Be ready for this essential security upgrade on the morning of **Thursday, September 27, 2018.**

**Wendy's Wire:** Avon Grove is now operating PowerSchool 12, the latest version of our student information system. There are significant changes to the way student contacts are collected, displayed, and viewed. Previously, you would have only seen the built-in 'mother' and 'father' fields in PowerTeacher-Pro, but now, you will see a new screen with a wealth of student contact information. The link for the new screen will be found under Students > Student View > Contacts. In a table format, you will be able to view the following fields from this new page: Parent Name/Email, Relationship, Phone, Address, Custody Status, Lives With, School Pickup, Emergency Contact, Receives Mail, and Effective dates.

**Clint's Clues:** It's become so easy to click and copy various media including photos, images, video, and music from the web. The question you need to ask yourself is, 'Can I legally use this content?' You may think that as an educator you can use anything accessible on the web for your students. However, the truth is that you, the School, and the District can be cited and fined for the illegal use of copyrighted materials. This includes the use of streaming media services like Netflix, Hulu, Prime Video and Spotify which specify in their legal terms of use that it is for 'private and personal use only.' If you haven't created the content, or do not have written permission from the owner/provider, then you must use [royalty free content](#). As you build your own list of royalty free sources don't forget the [OER](#) resources shared last spring, here are some [sources](#) that I maintain for my media classes that you may find helpful.

**Chris' Cookies:** Over the summer Avon Grove earned the [District of Distinction](#) marque from the publication [District Administrator](#). The District won this award for its innovative use of our Elementary Makerspaces. The success of these innovative spaces is solely due to the tenacity and willingness of our elementary teachers to take risks and innovate their instructional strategies. By doing so our students have begun to understand that 'failing' is part of learning. And, that taking risks while solving complex problems leads to learning in authentic ways. You, the teachers, are why our Makerspaces are successful! As we enter a new school year, please keep pushing forward. **Chris Montagna** is now an elementary assistant principal in the Manheim Central School District. **Matt Krykew** is Avon Grove's new elementary tech coach, please see **Matt's Megabytes** above.

**Mike's Minute:** One of the important upgrades we made this summer was to re-route traffic out to the Internet due to the heavy volume of web traffic the District is now generating. This demonstrates how fast Avon Grove's 1:1 initiative is growing. Prior to the 2018-19 school year we had one Gigabit of bandwidth. We now have two, 1-Gigabit interfaces coupled together in an [EtherChannel](#). So, we have essentially opened another 'door' to the Internet. This allows overflow from one door (internet connection) to the next. If one of the doors becomes too full, then it can use some of the other available bandwidth via the other door without slowing down the experience for any user. This upgrade allows for the continued future expansion of technology in the District.

**Gary's Goal** – My goal from June was 'a busy summer' and it certainly was! The progress Avon Grove continues to make in technology 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 **Erin Scriber** at AGIS and **Vinny Begatto** at PLES. 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. It goes without saying that **Karen Norris** exceeds all expectations and we're very excited to have **Matt Krykew** join the team as the new elementary tech coach. Good luck to **Chris Montagna** in his new administrative position in Manheim Central. Finally, let's not forget AGtv and the amazing work **Clint Jones** does for the District. 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.