August 25, 2026

Technology Update

BOE status updates in the area of technology will be provided regularly during public meetings. Areas of focus will include one-to-one distribution of Chromebooks, device use for homework, exposure to advertisements, use of screen time, and the practice of watching movies. The middle school administrators have provided talking points on the actionable progress made to date, which I will share on behalf of the district.

One-to-one Distribution of Chromebooks

There will be chromebook carts used now in grades 5 and 6. This is a change because previously, 6th graders received a school-issued device assigned to them for the duration of their middle school career. The middle school collected all individually-issued devices at the end of the school year, which was an additional change, so that students did not have school devices during the summer unless they needed one to complete summer work (e.g. for the Algebra 1 class in 8th grade).
Prior to issuing chromebooks to 7th and 8th grade students for the school year, the middle school administration developed a contract that students and parents will sign. Additionally, teachers will frame the contract around correct and appropriate use of the device, while underscoring the importance for healthy boundaries around tech use. FMS is also partnering with parents to co-host a parent workshop that will be focused on how to support the use of the chromebook at home. This will come in September. Lina Carolini-Cannavò, our new middle school Principal also recommended a speaker to the PTSA as a possible resource who is well-versed in things to be aware of in terms of cell phones, gaming, and social media. Dr. Stephen Dewey is someone Lina hosted in her former district, in collaboration with our PTSA and community counseling center.
Middle school administrators will be working with teachers to approach the use of technology differently, shifting the lens to asking themselves as they develop lessons and assignments, "Does this activity/assignment require technology or how does technology enhance the learning in this specific case?"

Device Use for Homework

Similar to the last point, this lens would apply for homework as well. It is important to note again that there are digital or multimedia components of the NYS standards for every discipline, and HW often supports or reinforces the learning in class. We will ask teachers to think about an overall expectation they have for homework on devices and be able to communicate that at back to school night. Parents will then be able to understand the average amount of time and type of work to expect their children

to do on a chromebook. There are a number of very beneficial resources online that really help students better understand and reinforce the concepts taught in class.

Exposure to Advertisements

Exposure to advertisements is something that will need to be explored further with our Managed Information Technology (MIT) team as this has to do with applications and filtering, which is controlled through back end filtering.

Use of Screen Time

This is part of the work the middle school administrators will be doing with teachers this year. It has already been established that there are no screens at lunch. Indoor recess is very challenging, so future efforts will take this into consideration.

Watching Movies

Middle school administrators will be talking to teachers around this to understand what their current practices are and how we can shift them, if necessary. Typically, a movie should be complementing and directly aligned with the curriculum, and should engage students actively.

Data Review Cycle

This month, members of the leadership team met together to engage in an academic data review and prepared to implement the Data Review Cycle. Leaders will be using this data in a formative fashion as they engage in their building goals for the 26-27 school year. Data will be presented via the State of the District report to the Board of Education.

Summer Curriculum Work

Many of our teachers have been hard at work since the end of the school year. Approximately 175 hours of summer work to develop and refine curricula have already been completed. Work will continue throughout the summer in additional areas. Areas of focus thus far have included the following:

HES

- Curriculum development for the 12:1:1 class
- Innovative Learning Commons collection curation

FMS

- Curriculum creation for Pop Cultures in the USA
- STEAM 6 curriculum creation
- Standards and curriculum alignment work for FMS Earth Science

- Grade 5 Exploring Equity lesson design
- Grade 7 Accelerated Mathematics course content creation - Part I & Part II
- Financial Literacy curriculum design
- Integrated Co-Teaching Planning
- Special Education Program & Organizational Structures
- IEP Modification Streamline - Program Mods & Testing Accommodations
- AOK Curriculum Creation
- FMS ICT Planning - Felipe & Stempfl
- FMS ICT Planning - Smith, Kim & Lembo
- FMS ICT Planning - Viebrock & Lembo
- FMS ICT Planning - Viebrock & Bellavia
- FMS ICT Planning - Ippolito & Marello
- Grade 6 - Social Studies Curriculum Overview & Collaboration

HHS

- Learning Resource Center content design
- Curriculum Creation for Spanish Film & Conversations
- Curriculum development for Spanish 4 non-honors
- Science Research Curriculum expansion for the 3-year sequence
- Curriculum Creation for new 2-D Video Game Design
- Digital Photography Curriculum Research & Training
- Chemistry Collaborative Planning - Ruffler & Clewell
- AP Chemistry Alignment

Planning for Strategic Priorities

Members of the LT have been hard at work identifying and planning goals for the 2026-2027 school year over the course of their two-day leadership retreat. To advance academic excellence and innovative learning, areas of district focus will include mathematics, ELA, technology and AI, data inquiry cycles, special education integration, and academic integrity. Buildings and departments also set goals, which are aligned to strategic priorities for the year.