



Nye County School District Technology Weekly Update

Masters of the Mystic Arts

Week of October 13, 2025

• Quarter #2, Week #1

○ Related Links

This Newsletter	Media (Fluff & Images)	Audio "podcast" - 12 Min Video Explainer - 6.5 Min
<p>Notes about the podcast & explainer:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Add this link to your podcast player for auto-downloads<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ https://feeds.buzzsprout.com/2533519.rss○ or search for Nye County School District in your podcast player• Video Explainer: The video making A.I. really has a tendency to call me out, stab me in the heart: "We are going to be looking at a document that, let's be honest, most of us would just delete." 🤖 It's funny because it's true.<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ And then again at the end, "...what looks like a boring update..." 😊		

Weekly Update

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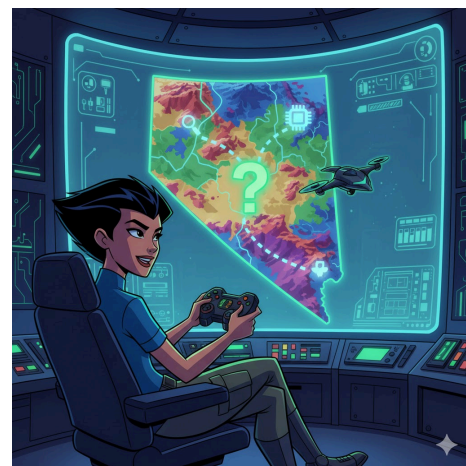
Masters of the Mystic Arts

Introduction

Everyone,

Welcome to another exciting edition of the NCSD Weekly Update! As we dive into Quarter #2, Week #1, I'm thrilled to bring you a fresh batch of insights, updates, and a little bit of fun.

Speaking of exciting, the Nevada Day Treasure Hunt is officially underway! This annual event is meant to inspire people to learn some of the eccentric history of Northern Nevada. A handful of clues will lead someone to a medallion hidden somewhere in Carson, Churchill, Douglas, Lyon, Mineral, Pershing, Storey, or Washoe Counties, with a \$1000 prize for the finder! Clues are released daily, Tuesday through Saturday at 6 AM. (This reminds me of the book, [Ready Player One](#)... if we were searching for an egg, Gunters.)



Since I won't be physically driving around to find the treasure, I'm embarking on a different kind of adventure: I'm experimenting with Gemini to analyze the clues and see if AI can virtually lead me to the hidden medallion. I'm keeping my guesses under wraps until the hunt is over, but I'm curious to see what Gemini uncovers! You can follow the hunt and find the clues yourself at [Nevada Day Treasure Hunt](#) and [2025 Clues](#).

There's a lot of information in this week's update, so enjoy a nice warm fall-favorite drink, and settle in. 😊

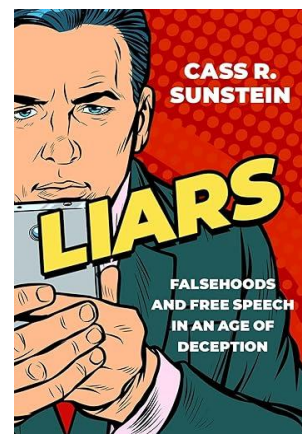
My Best,

-Rob

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Currently Reading

- [Liars: Falsehoods & Free Speech in an Age of Deception](#) by Cass Sunstein
 - Lying has been with us from time immemorial. Yet today is different-and in many respects worse. All over the world, people are circulating damaging lies, and these falsehoods are amplified as never before through powerful social media platforms that reach billions. Liars are saying that COVID-19 is a hoax. They are claiming that vaccines cause autism. They are lying about public officials and about people who aspire to high office. They are lying about their friends and neighbors. They are trying to sell products on the basis of untruths. Unfriendly governments, including Russia, are circulating lies in order to destabilize other nations, including the United Kingdom and the United States. In the face of those problems, the renowned legal scholar Cass Sunstein probes the fundamental question of how we can deter lies while also protecting freedom of speech.
 - To be sure, we cannot eliminate lying, nor should we try to do so. Sunstein shows why free societies must generally allow falsehoods and lies, which cannot and should not be excised from democratic debate. A main reason is that we cannot trust governments to make unbiased judgments about what counts as "fake news." However, governments should have the power to regulate specific kinds of falsehoods: those that genuinely endanger health, safety, and the capacity of the public to govern itself. Sunstein also suggests that private institutions, such as Facebook and Twitter, have a great deal of room to stop the spread of falsehoods, and they should be exercising their authority far more than they are now doing. As Sunstein contends, we are allowing far too many lies, including those that both threaten public health and undermine the foundations of democracy itself.
- If you want to see the other books I'm still working on, I'm here on Goodreads:
 - <https://www.goodreads.com/digitalrob>



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Security Notes

Security

Scam of the Week: A Fine Way to Get Scammed

In this week's scam, you receive a text message that appears to be from the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV). The text states that you must pay a traffic fine by a certain date. If you don't pay on time, your vehicle registration will be suspended, and you'll lose your driving privileges. Some versions of the message even state that you'll go to jail or your credit score will be affected if you don't pay.

The text message contains a link and instructs you to click it so that you can pay the fee. However, these messages aren't sent by the DMV. They're actually phishing texts (smishing) sent by cybercriminals. There was never an actual traffic fine or penalty. If you click the link in the text message and make a payment, your money will go directly into the cybercriminals' pockets!

Follow these tips to avoid falling victim to a smishing scam:

- Be cautious if you receive text messages claiming you must pay a fine immediately. Scammers often create a sense of urgency to trick you into acting impulsively.
- The DMV wouldn't ask you for personal information or money through a text message. If you have questions about paying a fine, contact your local DMV through its official website or phone number.
- This scam targets users in the United States. However, cybercriminals can use these same tactics to try and trick users anywhere in the world. Always stop and think before you click!

The KnowBe4 Security Team



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Tips & Quick Takes

Quick Take

Weaver's Weekly Workout: The Snackable SBAC (and ACT!)

Dr. Weaver asked me to include this in the weekly update, and it will be a running feature.

Dear Classroom Champions,

In alignment with the District Improvement Plan, I am launching a program to support student readiness for the SBAC and ACT assessments.

Each week, I will update the [SBAC Test Prep](#) and the [ACT Test Prep](#) documents with a new question for ELA and math. This is intended to provide consistent and brief exposure to test-style questions throughout the year. Your input is welcome, so please feel free to email me with suggestions for future questions.

This small, proactive step will hopefully help build student confidence and skills. As we all know, it is never too early for test prep.

Thank you for your partnership in this important work.

Kenny Weaver,
Assessment and Accountability

P.S. Each document has a tab for the necessary grade levels beginning with kindergarten, so you can focus on the content that is meaningful for you.



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Quick Take

SESS September Scoop: Shout-Outs, Behavior Tips, and IEP Insights!

Mrs. Roderick sent out a September SESS Newsletter last week. You can read it [HERE](#).

These are the shoutouts for September:

- **Michelle Crowley:** Recognized for exceptional teamwork, traveling to another campus to observe a student, and completing an initial IEP to secure vital services.
- **Chelsea Johnson:** Commended for tackling new special education challenges and responsibilities with professionalism and a positive attitude, growing into an amazing case manager.

The newsletter offers valuable insights for all educators, including the Behavior Tip of the Month and a strong recommendation for anyone working with students to contribute to IEP input, especially paraprofessionals.

It's definitely worth a few minutes of your time.



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Suggestion Box Updates

This is a column to provide some information, when appropriate, about items submitted anonymously to the district [Suggestion Box](#).

The next suggestion box updates will be in the October 27th weekly update.

Suggestion Box

The Right Path for Concerns: Policy Violations vs. the Suggestion Box

We received...

- a submission regarding concerns about staff members not adhering to the district's tobacco and vape-free policies on school grounds.

The Nye County School District has a clear policy ([Policy 223](#)) and regulation ([Regulation 223R](#)) that designate our campuses and facilities as tobacco and vape-free environments.

I also want to take this opportunity to clarify the best way to address different types of concerns. The anonymous suggestion box is an excellent tool for submitting ideas, feedback on district-wide systems, and suggestions for improvement. However, when it comes to concerns about specific conduct or potential policy violations, the most direct and effective path to a resolution is to report it to the appropriate supervisor.

If you observe behavior that you believe violates district policy, please bring it to the attention of your building administrator or direct supervisor. They are in the best position to address the situation directly and confidentially. This ensures that concerns are handled promptly by the right people.

We appreciate you looking out for the well-being of our school community.



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Suggestion Box

Making Room for One App to Rule Them All

We received...

- *We received a couple of thoughtful suggestions regarding our communication platform, Rooms (aka EduRooms), from staff members who are also parents. The feedback highlighted several areas for improvement, with concerns raised about the user interface being slow and not always intuitive. For example, some users have experienced sent messages not appearing correctly, which can lead to duplicates. Another key point was the challenge of inconsistent adoption among staff, which can create communication gaps.*
 - *The feedback also included specific features that users miss from other platforms like ClassDojo.*
 - *The ability to add images or avatars to student profiles for easier point tracking.*
 - *An audible chime on classroom computers when points are awarded from a different device.*
 - *A streamlined way to award points to the entire class at once while automatically excluding absent students.*
 - *The ability for students to check in with Rooms for attendance*

First off, a huge thank you to those who have shared their thoughts and experiences with our new communication platform through the suggestion box. Your feedback is not only welcome, it's essential. I want to address your comments directly, with the candor and context you deserve.

Let me start by saying: I get it. Completely. Change is hard, especially when you have a tool that you know well and that works for you. Being asked to switch from a comfortable, effective system to a new one with a learning curve can feel like a step backward.

So, I want to take a moment to share the "why" behind this district-wide move. Our goal was to solve several long-term challenges for our families and our district as a whole.



- **One Platform to Rule Them All:** We needed a single, consistent platform that works for a student in pre-kindergarten all the way through their senior year. For parents with children at different schools (say, an elementary, middle, and high schooler), this means one app and one login to communicate with all of their teachers, not two or three.
- **A Seamless Journey:** With Rooms, once parents are connected to their student, that connection follows them. No more collecting new class codes every August. As students move from grade to grade and school to school, their parents will automatically be in the right "rooms."
- **Avoiding the "Upsell":** This is a big one for us. Platforms like ClassDojo operate on a "freemium" model. While the basic service is free for teachers, the company's business model is built on marketing a paid, premium product directly to the parents you invite. This puts us in an ethically tricky position of using our classrooms as advertising space. We wanted a platform that was a straightforward communication tool, not a sales funnel, and we have had parent complaints about the regular requests from Dojo to upgrade.



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That said, we know Rooms isn't perfect. It's a young platform—only in its third year—and it's still growing. We know the apps are a bit slow, and the company is working on this. However, we've seen significant improvements each year, like the new rostering tools that saved everyone a ton of work this fall.

The ideas provided are outstanding. They are the kind of quality-of-life features that make a platform truly useful in a busy classroom. Please know that we are in regular contact with our rep at Apptegy. Your classroom experience is the most valuable feedback they can get, and their team is always grateful.

- I have submitted a few feature requests to the Rooms parent company already, and they are always taken seriously, some were even rolled out this week. (You can see my requests [HERE](#).)
- Regarding the question about images for students: Currently, teachers have the ability to add avatars to students, but the quantity of avatars is pretty limited. (You can see the directions for this [HERE](#).)



As far as consistent usage among staff, I agree, it has been a challenge this year, and it has definitely created some communication gaps. In the end, this is a school supervisor issue and should be brought to the administration. Next year should be easier with all schools required to use Rooms as the main communication platform.

We are committed to making this transition as smooth as possible. We've developed several resources to help you, and to help you help our parents.

- Training & How-To Resources for Staff: [Click Here for a Guide to Everything Rooms](#)
- Troubleshooting Guide for Helping Parents: [Click Here for the Parent Support Cheatsheet](#)
- Additional Parent Resources:
 - [Parent Digital Toolkit](#)
 - [Rooms FAQ Page](#)
 - [Getting Started with the NCSD App & Rooms and Troubleshooting Rooms Login Issues](#)

Thank you for your patience, your honesty, and your willingness to grow with us. We're building a better, more unified communication bridge for our entire district, and we can't do it without you.

My Best,
-Rob

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Calendar

General Items



[Click here to access the district and school calendars.](#)

- Click [HERE](#) for Board Meeting agendas & streaming Information.
 - Next Meeting: Thursday, October 16, 2025, 5:30 PM **← This week!**
 - Based in Round Mountain, and the Pahrump District Office will be open for attendance as well.
- Columbus Day - THIS **IS A SCHOOL DAY** (Monday)
- Parent/Teacher Conferences (NEXT WEEK)

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Reminders

- [PD Calendar - visit for lots of information about local PD](#)
 - [Curriculum & Instruction Site PD Information](#)
- Teacher Advisory Council Meeting (Mon, 4:00)
- Secretary Meeting (Wednesday)
 - Options: 7:05, 10:30, and 1:30, pick the one that is best for you.
- 7 Simple Secrets for New teachers
 - 4-day schools, PVHS & RCMS (Wed, 7:05)
 - Pahrump Elementaries (Wed, 8:15)
- Virtual PLCs
 - Elementary Technology GATE, PE - different meetings (Tues, 8:15)
 - Elementary Art, STEM - different meetings (Thurs, 8:15)



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Team Schedules

- Rob & Justin - Check in meeting (Mon, 8:30)
- Rob heads to Tonopah for the Week (Monday)
 - Check in with Amargosa and Beatty along the way
- SDA Coordination Meeting (Mon, 9:00)
- Rob - AVS Technology Check-in if Amanda & I miss each other on Monday (Tues, 10:30)
- SDA - Scheduling Consultation check-in with IC (Tues, 1:00)
- SDA - Bighorn/IC/SAIN NDE Webinar (Wed, 8:30)
- Rob - BlueInk Vendor Check-In (Wed, 10:00)
- Rob & Justin - Safety & Security Meeting (Wed, 1:00)
- SDA - Accountability Work Updates Meeting (Wed, 2:00)
- Rob & Karin's Anniversary - We are both in different states and not at home 😞 (Thursday)
- Justin Off (Friday)
- SDA Meeting (Fri, 2:00)

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Department Updates

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Technology & Data

Everyone

- A potpourri, a veritable plethora of various requests and work orders.
- An agglomeration of access updates and changes

Operational & Communication Stuff

- Meetings: Apptegy Check-in, Cabinet, JG Tech Tutorial, Elementary Counselor Dashboard, Ray, SDA, Beatty EduRooms for office, Erate Elite consultation, SDO Staff
- NV Treasure Hunt clue analysis
- AI Guidance Committee invitations & meeting set up
- Ordered equipment for PVHS outdoor wifi & all the power for switches

Student Data Team (Eldon, Michelle & Courtney)

- SAIN NDE Conference Call
- Data Dashboard
 - Added a Demographic Errors dashboard to the Errors app
 - Updated the Dashboard Directory
 - PowerBI (working on new enrollment error type; investigating differences in counts on behavior dashboards)
 - Updated Dashboard Directory (added enrollment error types) Added the Student Pass System for all MS/HS to the Counselor & Secretary apps
 - Added a section on the EOP & CTECS dashboards in the Student Achievement app for seniors that have not taken the tests
- Pulled suspension stats
- Used a script to make Nudge Letter PLP Contact Log entries for PVHS & RCMS
- Moved Q1 & Q2 RF - Fluency assessment marks from 4th & 5th grade Classroom to Language Arts courses for report cards.
- Added Non-Fulltime Reserve, Veteran, & Retired Veteran status' to the isMilitary Function in IC
- Working on the Validation Day report
 - Validation Day - Making manual edits in the DVSL
- Uploaded Fall Photos to IC (RCMS Retakes, AVES)
- Set up Social Studies courses for GMS
- Research in sandbox for DE courses (in-progress grades)
- Fixed issue with multi-grade courses (standards)
- Household Errors Fixing Support
 - (removing incorrect addresses on back end because Delete button is broken in IC. Should be fixed next week. -Fingers Crossed-)
- IC Access Updates



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Technology Team (Justin, Sean, Daniel, Brian & Jen)

- Chromebooks: Repairs are Life!
- Email investigations
- DNS updates
- Solved stability issues with the Dell thin client systems and refined methods and procedures for deployment
- Worked on dynamic message updates to alert/paging project screens, had to fix issues with single and double quote messages
- Single Point Entry support and troubleshooting
- Phone system improvements and google business updates
- Phone demo for staff meeting
- Worked with the Data team to get a report export for Mastery Connect working
- Core Server Windows Security/Upgrade patches
- Cortex end-user Antivirus scan and mitigations
- Erate meetings and 26-27 year planning
- 25-26 Erate switch and wireless A.P. prep
- Programmed cameras & NVR for Tonopah Elementary, delivered to site and worked with low voltage company on installation.
- Investigated possible back door SPE for bus drivers at PVHS
- Investigated and planned repair for network in a specifically weird room at JES
- Sean's report
 - Vendor meeting to sort out upcoming copier replacements. Had to be on Teams. Was asked if best way to contact me further was either Teams or on the phone. Answer was neither.
 - Other meeting to show off touchscreen features and turn J.G. Johnson in into guinea pigs. Went well. Learned new things about teacher reactions to surprised. Apparently lucky none resorted to immediately tearing their touchscreen off the wall. Did come close.
 - More 3D printer projects. None resulted in blood loss. This is rare enough to warrant mention.
 - Planned new house project because time off for self-care is for cowards and the emotionally competent.
 - Rushed plans for next summer with the confidence of knowing the quality of such plans are the problem of a future me and have never liked him anyway.
 - Visited haunted houses. Informed the demons that it was girlfriend's birthday. Was a gift for me.

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Kerby



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Fluff

Too many people think the grass is greener somewhere else but grass is green where you water it, remember that.

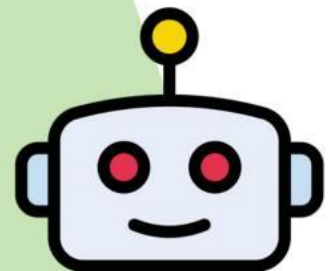
teachergoals.com

Someone somewhere still remembers you because you were kind to them when no one else was.



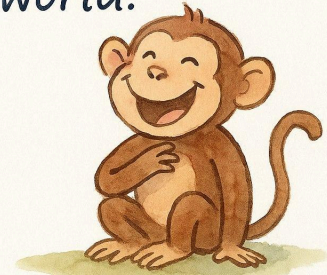
Your degree is just a piece of paper, your education is seen in your behavior.

By providing structure, consistency, and clear expectations, you can help students with ADHD feel more organized and in control of their environment.





Remember that
very little disturbs
the wise man.
He laughs at
himself and
the world.



BY WILL HENRY





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NCSD Weekly Update - Week of October 13, 2025

Update:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1kw6DTrt-cFq_Af2fel0MwNxvyfSfgNZpqZm-wnwcmLk/edit?tab=t.0

#EdTech

#education

#Nye4kids

#NVdigitallearning