Merrimack School District Technology and Library Media Services
Annual Report
2021-2022

Merrimack School District Technology and Library Media Services Department provides services for the students, staff, classrooms, offices, and business operations of the district. We continue to add devices for student-use, to evaluate and improve our infrastructure supporting learning through the use of technology, research, and reading materials, as well as to work with our staff to ensure they have what they need in the fulfillment of their roles.

The school year has been a phenomenal year with a lot of improvements, refinement, and new groundwork being laid to help propel the District forward in regard to technology and student learning. We also had the pleasure of onboarding some exceptional new staff; Lisa Martin, our new Librarian at Thorntons Ferry Elementary School, Ryan Murray, our new IT Technician at Merrimack High School, and last but not least Alex Holmes, our new IT Technician at Merrimack Middle School. All three of them have been making their mark in positive and unique ways here in Merrimack. We also appointed Lori Puzzo, Librarian at Reeds Ferry Elementary School, to be our Library Program Coordinator. Thank you for all you do, we are lucky to have each and every one of you!

This year, our main focus was on understanding the real needs of our students, educators, staff members, and daily operations. For instance, we have been collecting a lot of information and data to help make the right decisions going forward into the coming years. We have found that we have over 100 software applications we pay for that are used to help support and enhance student learning. Now that we have this information, we can use it to find gaps, utilize what we have in more impactful ways, and become more efficient on how we use these products and services. We have also introduced new software that really helps leverage the potential of digital learning, helping keep students focused and on track, while also freeing up time in the classroom.

Over the summer, we increased connectivity between buildings and the internet. In some instances, our bandwidth increased 800%. This was all able to be accomplished while also seeing reductions in our service provider bills. Along with this, the IT Team has started to virtualize more systems which makes us more nimble, reduces utility costs, increases our up time, reduces our dependency on physical servers, and allows us to have more options for disaster recovery.

Knowing what you actually have is crucial to being able to plan, vision, improve, and enhance. One of the School Board goals was to provide a complete inventory of all the technology in the District. With taking that inventory and comparing that to the technology replacement budget, we found that it was not possible to responsibly replace the technology with the amount of funding allocated. From there, we created a 6-year technology replacement cycle.

As always, the Technology and Library Media Services Department is privileged to serve all the students, faculty, and staff of Merrimack. We are energized and eager to continue to help learning through the use of technology and research.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jason Pelletier