Haggerty student uses a Chromebook at this year’s STEAM Night.
**FROM THE CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER**

*Steve Smith*

“Another Year in the Books”

...Pun intended. It’s hard to believe another school year has flown by. It has been another year of great accomplishments for the ICTS department.

This year included:

- Delayed – but grand – opening of the King & Putnam Ave. Upper Schools. With much hard work by many ICTS staff, the building successfully opened with state of the art classroom technology, wireless infrastructure, new staff & student devices, and a wonderful new Learning Commons and “iLab.”
- A new district-wide assessment platform known as School City Stars.
- Doc Star document management system
- Educators Handbook
- New backup and disaster recovery system
- Backend nearly 100% virtualized

Ongoing projects include: new transportation management system with follow that bus and student ridership functionality, facilities management system, and conversion to Destiny for the library circulation system.

An ICTS newsletter would not be complete if I didn’t mention our student data privacy efforts. CPS is leading the work of the National Student Data Privacy Consortium. Our practices and procedures are being used as a model for schools across the country to ensure student data is protected. Everyone throughout the district has a vital role in ensuring all student data is kept private, and I thank you all for understanding the importance of this issue.

Have a great summer!

Steve Smith
CPS Librarians Receive Statewide Awards

Recently, the recipients of the 2016 Massachusetts School Library Association statewide awards were announced. Congratulations to our four Cambridge Public Schools librarians/programs that were honored by the Massachusetts School Library Association with prestigious statewide awards this year.

The Massachusetts School Library Association has named Liz Phipps Soeiro, school librarian at Cambridgeport School as a recipient of the 2016 Ellen Berne Pathfinder Award. This Pathfinder Award celebrates groundbreaking developments in School Librarianship. Liz won this distinguished honor for her weekly Coffee and Conversation program, an amazing outreach program that connects school families to resources and the “decision makers” in the school, district and the city at large. The group meets weekly and, approximately once a month, has a special guest. Guests have included State Representative Marjorie Decker, the Mayor and Vice Mayor, School Committee members, and school district administrators. In addition to this statewide award, this innovative program has received much praise and attention regionally and nationally resulting in Liz being invited to speak about the importance of building and responding to community as a keynote speaker at the New Hampshire School Library Association’s Library Camp, Massachusetts School Library Association events, and The Digital Shift: Libraries Connecting Communities virtual conference. She has written articles on the topic for School Library Journal online and The Horn Book, and has published a program model through ALA’s Programming Librarian website. Congratulations, Liz!

The Massachusetts School Library Association has named Emily Houston and Mairead Kelly, school librarians at Cambridge Rindge and Latin School as recipients of the 2016 President’s Award. This award honors members who in careers of five years or less, have made significant contributions to student learning through strong school library programs. Emily and Mairead have been the librarians at the Pearl K. Wise Library at CRLS for three and two years respectively. In that short time, they have become a coordinated, valued and respected team in both the CRLS school community and CPS Library Media Department. They have built strong collaborative relationships with teaching colleagues resulting in their co-planning and teaching many research projects across the curriculum. In addition, they have created a welcoming library space with a collection that serves the diverse needs and interests of the CRLS school community. Emily and Mairead have also been instrumental in bringing a number of quality authors to CRLS and collaborated with classroom teachers to ensure the author visits are curriculum-related. Congrats, Emily and Mairead!
A pair of students in a 6th grade social studies class engages classmates in an online Jeopardy review game. Why doesn’t the pair need to review? They already did while they were designing the game. Across the city, budding chemists manipulate variables in a simulated experiment too costly and potentially dangerous to conduct in “real life”. “I wonder what would happen if…” one student muses as she adds another compound. “Your team has 3 minutes to crack this code!” appears on the screen in a math classroom. Students hurriedly confer and use their Smartphones to contribute responses to a poll displayed on the Smartboard. What is common to all these student-centered learning moments is physical and intellectual engagement with content, one another, and the interactive learning software available to all CPS educators, SMART Notebook.

Interactive whiteboards, Brightlink projectors, iPads, and Chromebooks are changing the way CPS teachers teach and their students learn. This year, as part of an ICTS Department goal to further integrate interactive learning resources into instruction, many ICTS teachers led or supported professional development courses that explored designing new curriculum—for individual, small, and whole group learning—that utilizes interactive technologies. Due to the different learning needs and available technologies across schools and grade levels, different courses were designed and delivered to teachers in K-2, 3-5, 6-8, and 9-12 cohorts district-wide. Targeting instruction to grade-level cohorts was a new professional development strategy this year, one that positively impacted teacher learning and collaborative curriculum design.

CPS educators came together to explore, learn, create interactive lessons and share best practices in collegial and supportive environments. The courses addressed the following questions: How can I use my interactive whiteboard/projector and Smart Notebook software as instructional, student performance and assessment tools? What interactive resources are

The Friends of Haggerty (FOH) were recipients of the Massachusetts School Library Association 2016 Parents as Library Supporters (PALS) Award. Sarah Novogrodsky, the school librarian at the Haggerty Elementary School nominated the Friends of Haggerty for this honor. According to Sarah, “Thanks to FOH, I have been able to invite an amazing array of authors/illustrators to visit with my students. The children eagerly anticipate these visits. I enjoy the challenge of seeking out and planning the annual visitor schedule. I try to create a schedule that includes author/illustrators of picture books, fiction and nonfiction. Some of the guests whose books the students have recently enjoyed are Vaunda Micheaux-Nelson, Mitali Perkins, Uma Krishnaswami, Loree Griffin Burns, Jason Chin, Ellis Paul, and Monica Wellington. A mural in the hallway contains the autographs and doodles of author/illustrators who have visited. Students look for the autographs of their favorite visitors and reminisce.” The Mission of the Friends of Haggerty is, “to raise funds to support initiatives that have been identified by the Haggerty community as valuable to the school. . .This includes classroom field trips and curriculum enrichment, school visits from authors and artists, and additional books for the library.” Congratulations to the Friends of Haggerty and Sarah!

The Massachusetts School Library Association held an awards ceremony and dinner to honor all of this year’s recipients at UMASS Amherst on Saturday, April 30, 2016.

I’ll take Ancient Mesopotamia for 500!":

The Interactive Classroom

By Melanie Nash, Library Media Specialist, Teachers’ Resource Center
available to me? How can collaborating with others help me develop my interactive teaching skills, identify opportunities to use them and to create lesson plans that embed the thoughtful use of interactive resources? Topics included teaching with SMART Notebook, web-based interactive content, integrating Google Drive and Classroom, and 21st century classroom management.

Many participants chose to focus on integrating SMART Notebook software into their instructional repertoire. Now that the District has a license for all school-owned computers as well as teacher personal computers, it’s a great time to explore this game changer for versatile, engaging, differentiated learning! But why should busy teachers open SMART Notebook when they’ve got Google Classroom, Google Slides, iLife, and other tools? SMART Notebook allows users to build and manage interactive, multimedia rich lesson content...easily. What sets it apart is an unlimited number of savable screens, a wide range of pen and highlighter tools, the ability to layer and stack “objects”--shapes, text, digital ink, images--on a digital canvas, add and save digital ink annotations to websites and files, transform equations into manipulable graphs, easily embed audio, video, 3D and other interactive learning objects that allow students to manipulate ideas and understand complex concepts visually. What’s more, two robust lesson recording features can be used to archive lessons, creating 24/7 access to learning.

Ultimately, the goal is to put this powerful learning technology in the hands of learners--having students design content for one another-- but where can a teacher new to the software begin? What are some features teachers can use to quickly create interactive lessons and promote collaboration amongst their students...this week?

Look no further! Turn the page to find the answers to these questions.
The Smart Exchange: Interactive Lessons by Teachers for Teachers

Need an interactive lesson on slope for tomorrow? No problem! Head to the Smart Exchange through the Notebook software or go to http://exchange.smarttech.com. Teachers can search by subject, keyword, or grade level, scan results for files that have been downloaded and “liked” frequently, quickly preview them, edit if necessary, save and upload them to Google Drive. Once in Drive, the files can be downloaded and opened on any device with Smart Notebook installed.

With SMART Notebook and a host of other interactive resources, teachers can easily differentiate instruction, increase engagement and challenge students to think critically, creatively, and collaboratively in novel ways. Please contact your building ICTS technician for installation on classroom computers. Please contact your school-based ICTS team for the license and user agreement for installation on personal machines as well as training and curriculum design support.

Lesson Activity Builder: Assess Student Responses Delivered by Phone, and More

The Lesson Activity Builder contains six visually engaging activity templates--sorting, matching, ranking, label revealing, “speedway” multiple choice, and a Notebook version of Padlet--that are even faster to access and edit than items in the Lesson Activity Toolkit! Teachers can even import class lists into many of them. A huge Lesson Activity Builder hit amongst CPS teachers was the activity Shout It Out (a Notebook version of Padlet) that enables students to respond to questions on a “group canvas” using their phones or other 1:1 device (tablet, computer). Shout It Out is a CPS Approved Tool so no parent permission form is required for this powerful student response/collaboration tool.

The Gallery: Lesson Activity Toolkit 2.0

SMART Notebook comes with activity templates that can be easily customized in a variety of ways for learners across grades and disciplines. Sorting, ranking, multiple choice, keyword, Venn diagram, and fill-in-the-blank drag and drop activities can all be found within a folder in the Gallery called the Lesson Activity Toolkit 2.0. The Tools folder in the Gallery is another important first stop. There you will find random word, group and number generators, click-and-reveal activities, hide and reveal activities, a “question flipper”, a scoreboard, and much more.
This Spring, twenty-six teachers and staff from twelve schools (and central administration) engaged in a self-paced, online course designed to introduce the Google Apps for Education suite of tools. They all learned how to create a document, slideshow, form, and embed them each into a classroom. They all watched tutorial videos and submitted assignments to an instructor. However, they all did it at their own pace and at their own selected day and time (even in their PJs).

Heather French, Instructional Technology Specialist at Cambridgeport & King, proposed the online course after teaching the same content in the traditional face-to-face setting and recognizing the need to differentiate pace and provide resources to the course participants. As she started recording tutorial videos to serve as resources, she noticed that teachers in her class were able to simply watch the videos and apply their learning through an assessment task. Along with the high demand for the course and the challenge of meeting the variety of school ending times, the idea of an online course was born.

The success of this Spring’s first cohort sparked a conversation within the Educational Technology department to explore other content that could be delivered in this online format. We discussed the pros and cons of this format and determined that not all topics nor learning goals can be met without face-to-face meetings or collegial conversations, however, there is some content that at the introductory level lends itself nicely. So, next year the department looks to build capacity to develop online content and plans to expand course offerings.

Getting Started with Google Drive will once again be offered as an online course in the Fall of 2016. At the same time, teachers within the Educational Technology will form a PLC to deepen their own understanding about online course design. Then in the Spring of 2017 we will launch new online courses in topics such as advanced Google tools, SMART Notebook, and the paperless classroom. Stay tuned for more information!
Have you downloaded the Mobile App Yet?

*With this app you can:*

- Receive school closing and emergency notifications in the palm of your hand
- Have quick access to important links on the district website
- Read up-to-date news
- Browse the district calendar for upcoming events and meetings
- And more....

**Download**

For iOS Devices

For Android Devices

The first time you open the App, it will ask you if you would like to receive push notifications. Select “YES” if you would like to receive emergency closing announcements and other urgent messages without having to open or check the App.

We’d Love YOUR Help
If you take any fab photos around the district, please send them to Amy Spencer for possible inclusion on Instagram, Twitter, or Facebook (don’t forget about media releases). Big thanks!

Where is CPS on Social Media?
See all of our social media accounts: www.cpsd.us/news/socialmedia

Summer Reading 2016
Check out this year’s Summer Reading bookmark above! It was designed by the talented Amy Spencer, Technical Design and Social Media Assistant at ICTS. All K - 8 students received one to help encourage their participation this summer. Happy reading!
TECHNICAL SERVICES
Kevin Keegan, Manager
617.349.6814  kkeegan@cpsd.us
The CPS Media Arts program offers media education courses from introductory through advanced levels, work-study opportunities, and media making support for all students. Housed in the Media Arts Studio on the CRLS campus, CEATV, Media Journalism, and RSTA Media Technology programs together provide in school and after school media arts education for the district.

Beginning with 21 students in the 2005-2006 school year, the Media Arts Studio now serves more than 280 students in school day classes, afterschool programs, clubs and special projects, and engages in a wide array of collaborative projects. These students show great creative energy and discipline in capturing a dynamic view of the educational and cultural life of our schools and our city.

In this issue, we highlight our annual Media Fair, and Media Production Instructors Ingrid Stobbe and Ross Matthei share stories about our 5th grade media makers.

Media Fair 2016
Media Fair 2016 was held on May 26th to showcase the work produced by CPS students. The 2016 reel highlights work from RSTA Media Tech and Media Arts Studio classes and CEATV after-school programs. The 48 minutes of excerpts represent more than 40 hours of originally produced student-work! Clips showcase stories about CRLS and stories about our community, Youth View Cambridge and Falcon Sports Weekly series, documentaries and narrative pieces, special science journalism and experimental media pieces, and much more.

Please visit our MediaCAST Student Media Portal for viewing these programs in their entirety! Or check the Channel 98 schedule for specific times. Schedule and streaming at http://www.cpsd.us/departments/media_arts/channel_98_99

Congratulations to all our staff, students and collaborators for an entertaining and informative year of media making! Special thanks once again goes to the RSTA Culinary Arts staff and to the TRC for support of the Media Fair.
Watch Our Channels! Access the Student Media Portal!

All completed student work is shown on our two Cambridge cable channels, streamed on our website, and archived on the CPS MediaCAST student portal.

https://mediacast.cpsd.us/mediaportal/

More Information

For channel schedule and streaming:
www.cpsd.us/departments/media_arts/channel_98_99

To learn about media making opportunities, Cambridge students can visit the Media Arts Studio, 454 Broadway (directly across from CRLS), call 617.349.6744 or email us.

Collaborating with filmmakers of all ages

A hub of collaboration, the Media Arts studio is open to help media creators of all ages and ability develop and produce their own creative works. One such collaboration was with Tavi, a talented young filmmaker from the Haggerty School who joined our afterschool team this spring to produce a series of shows called “What Do You Think?” This series encourages his peers to consider some of the pressing issues concerning Cambridge youth today. You can find those segments in the Student Media Portal under Youth View Cambridge, a student-generated television and web series, Episodes 904 and 908.

Pictured Above: Panel of commentators straight from the halls of the Haggerty School.

Youth View Cambridge Afterschool Production Assistants run the studio control room for “What Do You Think”.

“What Do You Think?”
Fifth Grade Collaboration

Pictured Above: Panel of commentators straight from the halls of the Haggerty School.
Students at Morse School getting cozy with some books.