

## **TECHNOLOGY PRESENTATION 8/20/2025 – KEN WESTGATE JR**

### **Brief Agenda:**

1. STEM/Tech Storage – New Locations and what's there.
2. Tech Tools – Choices for Use and where they will be located
3. Impact of AI on Tablet Use
4. AI Teacher Tools

### **STEM/TECH Storage:**

1. Old 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Classroom Tech = Mobile Media Cart, Portable Projector, Sound System, Printer, miscellaneous tool.
2. old 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Classroom STEM Storage – Cabinets are marked in the back of the classroom. Materials include a variety of craft and general supplies – cups, straws, paper plates, etc., Robotics, and Coding materials, Hydroponic and Solar Project Materials, KNEX kits.
3. Outside Storage closet outside of old 5<sup>th</sup> Grade classroom – All STEM materials from old science kits and some garden tools. Science kits involve primarily Earth Science Materials and general environmental science tools. All would be appropriate for PreK learners. I have removed materials that are unsafe for young children.
4. Tech Equipment not being used in the classrooms at this time is stored in the 8<sup>th</sup> Grade old reading closet. There are also some cabinets with STEM materials but these are for teacher only guided STEM activities with the students. I will be marking the drawers in all cabinets as well as the storage shelves, but they have not been marked yet at this time.

### **TECH TOOLS Available for Classroom Use:**

1. Laptops will be available for all teachers to use if they choose to do so. I am working on obtaining the Microsoft Extended Security Update Services Package for these laptops which will be completed before Oct 1, 2025 when Windows 10 expires from Microsoft's Support Program. The Extended Package provides 1 year of additional support, but only one year. This will allow us to consider whether to invest in teacher laptops for the future or to decide on some other tools that the teachers may find more useful. Another alternative is to move to a Linux Based Laptop some of which I already have available in the school. Linux is now the most widely used Operating System in the World and is now the foundation for all major operating systems including Microsoft, Google, Apple, and Android. If you already use any of the above operating systems you are actually already using Linux. While versions have a slightly different look than those mentioned all work the same way regardless of their look, because current pointing devices used in all Graphical User Environments use only a limited set of functions which are universal to all digital devices.

2. Dual Function Document/WEBcam Cameras – Document Cameras provide a way for a Laptop to Project images of print and real world materials through a projector to a projector screen. They can be used to create interactive Lessons on standard whiteboard is the projector is projecting to a whiteboard instead of a screen. When used as a WEBcam these cameras provide projection of real time streaming content for a classroom to participants or presenters in other locations around the local area, state, nation, or the world. They are particularly useful for WEBinars. A WEBinar is an actual live session with another instructor and/or class where specific academic content is shared with students. At St Theresa's we have been doing WEBinars since I first came to this school in 2007 and we have always found them to be a valuable part of the learning experience. I can help teachers select and arrange for WEBinars for their students, and manage the other technology for the WEBinar during the Session.
3. Audio Systems – These are primarily used with laptops and projectors where the need for increased volume is required. Many digital devices have their own speaker systems built in, but for projecting that sound for the whole classroom, or for use in Friendship Hall may require a special Audio Sound System.
4. Portable DVD players (we have two) These can be used with a laptop that no longer has DVD players or recorders. They can also be used with other Digital devices that have the appropriate corresponding USB connections. I have some USB adapters that allow for these players to be share with other Digital Devices such as smart phones, and tablets.
5. Android Tablets – These are primarily available for students use but there are generally enough for teachers to use as well. We have ONN Tablets, Nook Converted Android Tablets, and Samsung Tablets, and a few odds and ends tablets as well. One big change with the ONN Tablets this year is that all Google Apps come with Artificial Intelligence now, and I will need to explain how we will deal with that as far as student use is concerned. The tablets can be used for one-on-one instruction, individual independent exploration or instruction, small group, or whole group instruction.
6. Promethean Boards – Hopefully by the start of school we will have our 4<sup>th</sup> Promethean Board at this PreK program.
- A. We have an old Promethean Active Panel Board in Friendship Hall. This Board could only be updated by replacing the OPS (Operating System Module on this Board). We may consider that as a future fund raising goal so that this board can be brought up to speed with the other Boards we have in the classrooms. This board is primarily used for WEB type content broadcasts in Friendship Hall.
- B. Promethean Active Panel 9 Boards – these boards are in PreK 3 and PreK 4B. They can still be updates to some degree at this point and can run both WEB and installed application content.
- C. Promethean Active Panel 10 Board – This board will be in PreK 4A and is the newest of the Promethean Board models.

All Promethean Boards are 65 inch models which actually allow for up to four users at a time if the board is divided into active sections. Most teachers will use these for online content and/or built in academic applications for whole class instruction.

7. A variety of other specialized technology exists in the school for network management use and is not generally distributed to the classroom unless it is required for a specific function in the classroom. Most of this equipment is either already working and setup in the server room, or is in storage in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade storage area.

### **IMPACT OF AI CONTENT ON THE STUDENT TABLETS:**

Since all of our tablets are Android Tablets and use both the Android Operating system which Google owns, or uses other Google Chrome tools which Google also owns, all of these now come with embedded Artificial Intelligence as do many other educational applications now available to students at all age levels.

There are many differing opinions about AI use in the educational community. Some strongly for, some strongly against, and some still trying to work through how much may be useful and how much may be detrimental. At the present time, I am in that third group. While I have strong opposition to the fact that AI is extremely negatively environmentally impactful for its excessive energy resource use, I have begun to see some AI applications as providing helpful assists to teachers and students, especially for things like content creation, lesson planning, and assisting special needs students. I am generally opposed to the unsupervised, unregulated, and excessive use of AI as a replacement to actual student learning and critical thinking abilities. This is more frequently the case among students in the 6<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> grade levels, and those in the collegiate or university settings.

My concern with what Google has done however, is to add AI in to all its products without substantial pre-testing, nor auditing of potential “AI hallucination content”. What is an AI hallucination? It is where Artificial intelligence doesn’t have enough data to provide a real fact based answer or response so it generates a totally false and frequently harmful response. All AI is actually based on content that has been created by human beings. Frequently this content has been stolen by AI companies without getting the content creators permission violating copyright and other content creator protections. Because some companies have chosen to collect information on a piecemeal basis AI also has the tendency to use insufficient data to create responses, making the responses either partially or totally false. AI can also be fed data that is actually inaccurate and this inaccurate data can be made to appear real even though it is definitely false. While we might not think this can happen with children’s software, please remember that software companies have agenda’s just like any product company.

Some of those agenda's are very careful to consider what content children might be exposed to and others aren't as long as they are making money. This has already been the case with some AI Chatbots, that have provided content that has been extremely dangerous to young children and teenagers, leading several to committing suicide or other self harming behaviors. So I will be monitoring all apps on the tablets very carefully and checking independent researchers to insure that we are not allowing any apps on the student tablets that could be potentially harmful. I will remove any apps that I feel may be presenting potential harm to the students.

### **What about AI apps for teachers: Provided by Matt Miller from Ditch the Textbook.**

At this point in time I am still evaluating AI apps that are targeted to help teachers. I have found some to be very useful such as Adobe Express, and Canva, and even Prezi AI. There are other out there as well. Here are some examples:  
Here are some ideas:

- Use [Canva Magic Presentations](#) to help you craft slide presentations.
- Use [Curipod](#) to create interactive slides.
- Check out our list of [AI tools for the classroom](#) for more tools to help you.
- Browse the [Canva Graphic Organizers and Worksheets](#). (Get a [free EDUPro Account](#) to unlock all of the templates!)
- Browse our [Ditch That Textbook template library](#) for engaging learning activity ideas.
- Incorporate learning resources from these [20+ sources of FREE digital content for your class](#).
- Use the [Explore Explain Apply](#) planning framework to plan engaging lessons.

### **Other AI Tools for teachers and this is just scratching the surface:**

ChatGPT ([chatgpt.com](#))

- Google Gemini ([gemini.google.com](#))
- Microsoft Copilot ([copilot.microsoft.com](#))
- Anthropic Claude ([claude.ai](#))

SchoolAI ([schoolai.com](#))

- MagicSchool ([magicschool.ai](#))
- TeachAid ([teachaid.ca](#))
- Eduaide ([eduaide.ai](#))

MagicSchool: Helps generate curriculum-aligned lesson plans and instructional supports: <https://www.magicschool.ai/>

- Eduaide: Provides research-backed activity ideas aligned with early childhood learning standards: <https://www.eduaide.ai/>

Curipod: Generates interactive, AI-powered lesson slides: <http://curipod.com>

Canva for Education: Generates visually engaging worksheets, classroom decor, and printables: <https://www.canva.com/education/>

- Natural Reader: Allows teachers to clone their voices to read text.

- <https://www.naturalreaders.com/>

<https://www.briskteaching.com/>

**Brisk is a Chrome and Edge extension that helps teachers with curriculum, feedback, and differentiation — while giving leaders peace of mind with student-safe AI and real-time visibility into how it's being used.**

<https://autoclassmate.io/tools/ai-powered-lesson-plan-generator/>

The Auto Classmate AI-Powered Lesson Plan Generator will enable you to create a highly-customizable, editable, and unique Lesson Plan to implement in your classroom. The Lesson Plan Generator allows you to easily align your lesson plan with state standards with the click of a button. Powered by OpenAI's GPT-4, this lesson planning tool will revolutionize the way you create content for your classroom. After using our AI Lesson Planning tool, you will also be able to have conversations about your lesson plan with our AI-Powered Instructional Coach Chatbot.

<https://ai-lesson-plan-generator.com/>

<https://www.lessonplangenerator.ai/>

<https://easy-peasy.ai/templates/lesson-plan-generator>

<https://www.canva.com/features/ai-lesson-plan-generator/>

<https://slidesgo.com/ai/lesson-plan-generator>

<https://www.teachertool.ai/best-ai-tools-for-teachers/ai-lesson-plan-generator>

<https://chalkie.ai/>

**Non AI Option**

<https://www.education.com/resources/lesson-plans/?msclkid=ed43c741b6a5122972bdafe57e8fa436>