



This Week in MIS & Technology



I'm reporting live from the FAEDS (Florida Association of Educational Data Systems) conference. I know what you're thinking, a large group of party animals, and you would be right. This conference is for the IT management/specialists of districts. It focuses on networking, data analysis systems, hardware, etc. Unless you geek out about fiber optic connections, operating systems, and mainframe support; this isn't the conference for you. I'm enjoying it thoroughly. We've had a lot of round table discussions about organizing IT personnel, outsourcing, the DOE, eRate, etc. FAEDS is a great way to discuss not only what's going on in Okaloosa, but to learn what's going on in other districts. We're not going to reinvent the wheel if another district is doing it better already. A big discussion is underway about a statewide requirement for textbook companies' software specifications as an attempt to allow those different applications to work together and with our single sign-on system. Another one is on changing shops from being data driven to curriculum driven. Changes are coming; but then again, they always are. Eric Mitchell

Data Analysis

We are working on Florida Alternative Assessment data for 2012-2014; FCAT performance from 8th grade for current 9th grade Algebra 1, Algebra 1A/1B, Algebra 1 Honors students; and dual enrollment data for 2012-2014.

Seat Management

This week in Seat Management, we worked on setting up BYOD training for the north end of the county. That training will take place on October 3rd at Carver Hill. Other trainings will be in Niceville as well as Fort Walton Beach. We worked with schools to get quotes for devices such as iPads and Chromebooks.

MIS

Class Size Trials continue. The second of these will be completed this week. Please be aware that scheduling adjustments may still be needed due to class size requirements. You may see a warning in PAWS about your class size, but please do not make changes in the AS400. Be aware that we are still assisting elementary schools with their scheduling needs. If you need assistance with or have questions about your schedules, please call.

The first trial for Survey 2 will be captured this week. We are working with Operations and Programming Services to ensure all information needed for Survey 2 is available for capture. Remember that Date Certain for Survey 2 is Friday, October 17. All student schedule changes should be made in the AS400 before that day.

Mobile Learning

Mobile Learning focused on getting the Curriculum laptops for iReady and Achieve3000 working within our network. We half succeeded! It seems the laptop's network card is a bit finicky and requires a little bit of coaxing to connect to Cybernet. We conducted live stream testing within our network with fantastic results.

Next week we will get our focus back on the iPads and see if we can start catching up on our work orders.

Data Processing

In the last eight work days, our department has held down the IS fort: pulling third party files, updating students in Destiny, managing user requests in PAWS and AS400, programming changes for PMPs, and more. Though I've been in Orlando discussing the state's Item Bank and Test Platform, the Central Florida Assessment Collaborative's work on EOC item banks, and all things FAEDS related, the IS department continued to work to support the data which is important to you. I'll bring back a fair amount of information of particular interest to Information Systems. While I miss the sparkling white sands of the Emerald Coast, functions like CFAC and FAEDS provide us with a great opportunity to get a sense of the movement of the state and our sister districts. They allow us to find new ways to stay ahead of the pack.

Instructional Technology

This week in Instructional Technology, technology assistance papers (TAPs) went out to all schools allowing teachers to use many of the great resources that are available to their students. A Chromebook pilot is in the works at three of our schools to help better understand the online resources available to educators and students. Our office will be offering bring your own device (BYOD) training on October 3rd at Carver Hill. Information and times can be found in email previously sent from Dustin Keith of Seat Management.