Talking about Technology

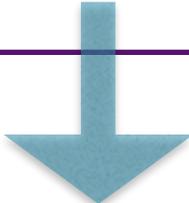## A Newsletter for District 70 Parents

By Pam Imholz (Director of Technology) and Caren Kimbarovsky (Technology Literacy Coach)

CREATING A FRAMEWORK

Students at the elementary level have been busy with Technology Framework and other lessons that integrate technology into the curriculum. The Technology Framework is a continuing work in progress that provides every grade level with lessons that seamlessly integrate learning objectives with technology. Student learning takes place while ensuring that all students are experiencing technology integration within the curriculum. Currently, Framework lessons incorporate use of computers and/or recently purchased Chromebooks As the district moves forward, the framework lessons will incorporate iPads at the K-2 level as well. An associated Scope and Sequence of Skills is embedded within the Framework. Below is a sample kindergarten lesson that requires students to sort living or nonliving things using a drawing program called Pixie.

Living or Nonliving Things?
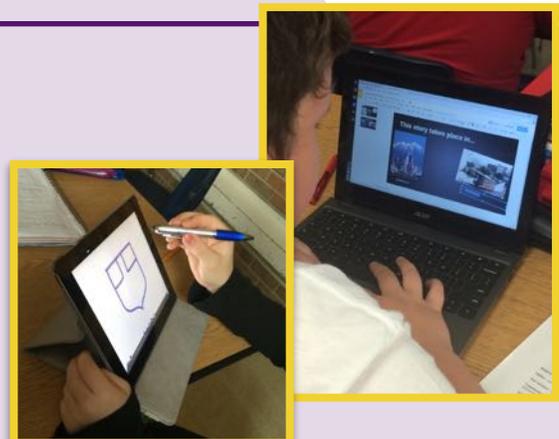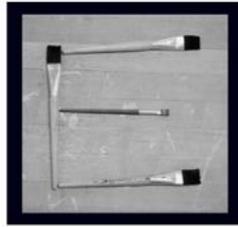Click and drag to sort the living and nonliving things.

KEYBOARDING

Second through fifth graders have started keyboarding this month. Students are given direct keyboarding instruction for a pre-determined period of time in the classroom. Once formal instruction has been completed, additional classroom time will be allotted throughout the year to reinforce skill development. Parents are asked to provide at-home keyboarding practice opportunities to further solidify newly learned skills. Information regarding the keyboarding initiative was recently sent home with K-5 students. Look for keyboard resources at this web address.

http://d70schools.org/students/

Middle school students are included in the District 70 commitment to a technology rich environment. The deployment of additional carts of Chromebooks supports technology integration across the curriculum. Students are using technology tools to create presentations, take tests, create digital stories with pictures and audio, take notes, and perform research.
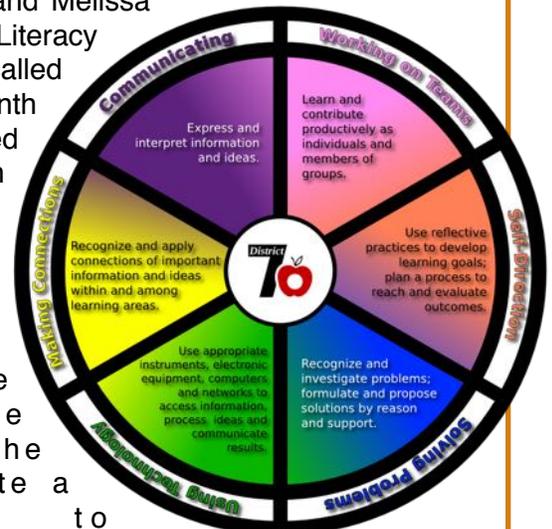
FULL **STEAM** AHEAD

This year the Highland Applied Technology teachers, Kim Hauman and Melissa Rosen, along with support and encouragement from Technology Literacy Coach, Caren Kimbarovsky, created a new instructional program called STEAM (**S**cience, **T**echnology, **E**ngineering, **A**rts and **M**ath.) All seventh grade students will take a trimester of STEAM. Students are provided with hands on opportunities to explore a variety of topics at their own pace. The Applications of Learning are a key component to foster growth and exploration while making connections to the real world. First, students are asked to create SMART (**S**pecific, **M**easurable, **A**ttainable, **R**ealistic and **T**imely) Goals with their partners. Then, during the course of the engagement, partners reflect on accomplishments each day to evaluate their progress. Finally, at the end of the engagement, the students create a presentation to communicate what has been learned, and whether they were successful with the attempted SMART Goals or not. Some of the engagements or opportunities that students may choose to explore include: **Game Design** (Game Star Mechanic), **Communications** (Virtual DJ), **Architecture** (Homestyler), **Maker Ed** (MaKey MaKey and Solar Cooking). As the program develops over time, additional self-directed engagements will be offered.

Check it out at:
http://highlandsteam.weebly.com/

Please follow @d70Tech for tweets pertaining to technology and learning in the schools. This new account REPLACES the old @pamimholz account which will be deleted.