

Good Afternoon SMJUHS Teachers –

In an effort to enhance our educational technology and provide better tools for teachers we have purchased, and are finally receiving, several new pieces of technology. These are not required and there is no dictate on how they are used. They are, however, meant to add tools to teachers' toolboxes and help provide options during these difficult times. These are:

For Everyone and in-stock/being delivered:

1. Document Camera*
2. Wide-angle Camera*
3. Tripod
4. Microphone
5. Various USB cords

For those that Opted in and pending delivery, delivery date TBD:

6. Tatung Interactive Display

*The two cameras above are connected via USB and HDMI and user controlled. They are NOT network cameras and not “on the network.”

District IT has been working with Site Admin and Plant Managers to deliver and start setting up this educational technology in classrooms. We understand that cameras can be fraught with different implications and that our upcoming models (Virtual or Hybrid etc.) are subject to change and negotiable. Those things acknowledged this technology is meant to help teachers enhance the learning environment whether full virtual or another possible environment that may come. Early testers/adopters have shared that these tools as extremely helpful in freeing them from their computer and enhancing their zoom teaching experience. Again, these are tools we are providing to enhance teaching. They are not required and there is no dictate how they be used. We are providing this to help, not to eat up scarce mental bandwidth, unnecessarily upset the apple cart, or cause any stress. Again, these tools are meant to help teachers facilitate virtual learning in the zoom environment and in whatever type of hybrid we ultimately end up in.

As you know there will be a learning curve with all of this technology on the user end and the support end. We are training IT Techs this week with the help of the provider (EHP/Tim Kim) and have been in communication with early testers/adopters to try and learn the best approaches and ways to support. Also, use and implementation will naturally vary by person, need, program, department, etc. Literally, every situation will have unique variables.

Our Tech TOSA's will be providing some training in January. I highly encourage you to attend this training and consider scheduling a 1:1 appointment to discuss your individual setup.

Please do not hesitate to ask your Site Network Tech, Site Tech TOSA, Admin, or me for help as needed. Also, and I cannot stress this enough, your first setup will likely not be your final setup. DO NOT hesitate to ask for help setting up, re-setting up, and re-re-setting up equipment as you learn and find out what works for you. It is OK to come to us multiple times as you dial it in.

The above stated, please be patient with us as we try to assist everyone and learn some best practices in the process.

We are here to help and happy to do so.

I hope all of you have a healthy and restful Christmas break.

Respectfully,

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