TECHNOLOGY SERVICES PRESENTS...

The Technology Insider

KEEPING YOU INSIDE THE TECHNOLOGY LOOP

In This Issue

The Easy Button
Simple Solutions

New GRADES Feature in TDAS

Technology has worked on a number of new features in TDAS this past year. One new feature is the GRADES Tab.

When you log into TDAS and do a search for a set of students in the Student Center using the filters on the right, you wil notice a new tab at the top of the search results screen, called GRADES.

This new feature will allow you to view the current grades for the students in your search. The grades will be divided by subject area, such as Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies, and Other.

If you do not have the GRADES Tab, please send an e-mail to tdas@tomballisd.net.

Got Missing Software?

This past summer, Technology re-imaged a large number of computers around the district; however, with the number of computers that were re-imaged, Technology may have missed re-installing some important software applications that may have been on your computer before you left for the summer.

If you notice that you are missing software that was installed on your computer before you left for the summer, please place an e-mail to Thomas Cranshaw and let him know what is missing.

Please be patient as Technology works to get those software applications re-installed as quickly as possible.

Common TISD Technology Terminology

There are some common words you may hear in Tomball ISD regarding Technology and Technology Services hopes this will help you understand what is being said.

Novell Login: The username and password used to log into a District computer.

Novell GroupWise: The TISD e-mail communication system used on a District computer.

Webmail: The TISD e-mail communication system used through a web browser.

H:Drive: An employee's personal network drive. The TISD network drives are not accessible from home.

MessageScreen: The TISD Spam filtering system.

Eduphoria: The TISD Technology Helpdesk and PDAS System.

InfoSource: The TISD Professional Development Tracking System.

TAC: Teacher Access Center, The TISD Gradebook System.

HAC: Home Access Center, The TISD Parent Portal where parents can check grades, attendance, etc.

Altiris: The Remote Management System that allows the TISD Technicians to remote into a District computer to help resolve a problem.

Sophos: The TISD Antivirus System used to protect the network and computers from viruses.

Fortinet: The TISD Content Filtering System which helps protects students and employees from accessing inappropriate material on the Internet.

TDAS: The Tomball Data Analysis System used for accessing student information, TISD Documents, website management, and many other TISD applications.

Staples Easy Button used with Permission from Staples Corporation

Texas Star Chart

The purpose of the Texas Teacher STaR Chart is to assist all classroom teachers in assessing their personal needs and setting professional goals for the use of technology in the classroom to support student achievement.

The chart focuses on the four areas of the new long range plan:

1. Teaching and Learning;
2. Educator Preparation and Development;
3. Leadership, Administration and Instructional Support; and
4. Infrastructure for Technology

In each area, there are levels of progress ranging from Early Tech to Target Tech. The goal for all Texas teachers is to reach the Target Tech level of the STaR Chart.

The STaR Chart must be completed every year, by every teacher and Principal before the district can submit their new or updated Technology Plan, which is due around October of each year.

This year, the due date for the Star Chart is October 12th, 2009.

If you have transferred from a different campus or district, you will have a new username.

A list of usernames has been provided to your Principal. An e-mail will be sent with instructions on how to access the Texas STaR Chart for both returning and new teachers in TISD.

Frequently Asked Questions can be located at **http://starchart.esc12.net/faq.html**.

NEW: Child Nutrition Point of Sale System

Tomball ISD has implemented a new Point of Sale system for Child Nutrition called Primero by Cybersoft Technologies, which will enable TISD to better track student and employee lunch purchases:

1. Touch Screen monitors at every campus
2. On-line Free and Reduced Lunch Application
3. On-line Parent Access for tracking balances and making payments
4. Parents can monitor and approve what their children are eating
5. Students have one PIN throughout their career in TISD

Instructions will be sent to campuses and parents on how to access the online information.

Technology Services' HelpDesk Tips

Question:
How do I create an icon on my desktop to my H:Drive?

Answer:
Creating a shortcut icon on your desktop is easy. Just follow these easy steps.

1. Double click on the "My Computer" icon on your desktop.
2. After the window opens displaying your connected drives, RIGHT CLICK on your "H" drive.
3. Click on Create Shortcut.
4. A pop-up will appear stating "Windows cannot create a shortcut here. Do you want the shortcut to be placed on the desktop instead?"
5. Click Yes
6. You should now have a new icon on your desktop for your "H" drive.
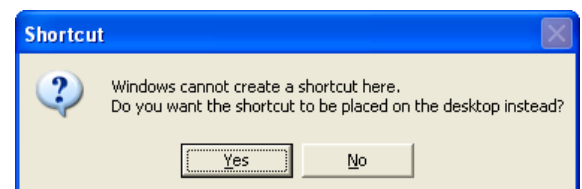
District Technology Contacts

Have you ever wondered who to contact when you have a problem with some form of Technology? Below is a list of who you should contact:

Technical Issues

Computer, Laptops, & Monitors ----------- Eduphoria HelpDesk System

Classroom Projectors ----------------- Eduphoria HelpDesk System

Printers & Scanners ------------------ Eduphoria HelpDesk System

Wireless Network ------------------- Eduphoria HelpDesk System

Login Issues (Network, TDAS, etc.) --------- Technology HelpDesk at 281-357-3052 ext. 4001

GroupWise, TDAS, & InfoCrossing --------- Technology HelpDesk at 281-357-3052 ext. 4001

InfoSource, Discovery Streaming, ---------- Campus Trainer and/or Liz Grant & Michelle Barber
and/or TeacherWeb

Airliners / Bluetooth ----------------- Campus Trainer & Eduphoria HelpDesk System

SMART Notebook Software & Airliner -------- Liz Grant or Michelle Barber

Curriculplan Login ------------------ James (Chris) Scott & Dr. Joan Slater

Encore Login -------------------- Kendra Wiggins

Child Nutrition Point of Sale Account -------- Campus Café Mgr. or Matt Antignolo

District Technology Services

Technology	Tom Brawley	Dir. of Technology Services	281-357-3052 ext. 4002
MIS	Cam Hendricks	Mgr. Information Services	281-357-3052 ext. 4002
D/NS	Thomas Cranshaw	Mgr. Desktop/Network Services	281-357-3052 ext. 4002

District Instructional Technology

All Campuses	Dianne Tidwell	Dir. of Instructional Technology	281-357-3100 ext. 243
All Campuses	Liz Grant	Content Teacher	281-357-3052 ext. 4053
All Campuses	Michelle Barber	Content Teacher	281-357-3052 ext. 4057

Campus Instructional Technology Trainers

|			
CPES	Courtney Lammert	DPES	Tracy Jo Geiser
CPES	Martha Sanchez	DPES	Natalie Plympton
LES	Deanna Meekins	RES	Melissa Horton
LES	Rebecca Christian	RES	George Williams
TES	Keith Cathcart	CFES	Anne Ball
TES	Emily Wise	CFES	Tina Niemann
WCES	Peggy Doss	NIS	Jennifer Davis
WCES	Traci Sommers	NIS	David Becker
WCES / NIS	Cherie Warren	TIS	Mary Brewster
TJHS	Christetta Butts	WWJHS	Deanna Hunold
TJHS	Stacey Lee	WWJHS	Sadie Marcum
THS	Janice Crofoot		

Technology Services Staff Member Bio...

Santiago Paden

Santiago is originally from Merkel, Texas. For those of you unfamiliar with Merkel, it is close to Abilene, Texas. Santiago started with Tomball ISD in August of 2006 as HelpDesk. While working as HelpDesk, Santiago was also working to improve himself and has recently graduated from Lone Star College with his Associate degree.

In October of 2007, Santiago was promoted to Technician. He is currently the only technician at Tomball High School, so most of us don't get to see him very often. The High School keeps him pretty busy.

Before he came to work for the District, Santiago had a brief stint at Sears as an associate there. Santiago was also a proud member of the Marine Corp for four years of active duty and four years as a reservist. While enlisted, he was stationed at Camp Pendleton in California and also had a brief tour in Iraq.

Santiago became interest in computers as a child and has tinkered with them all of his life. Never one to sit still, Santiago is currently working on another Associate Degree, this time from ITT Technical School. He enjoys working at the school district and his mission is to help people.
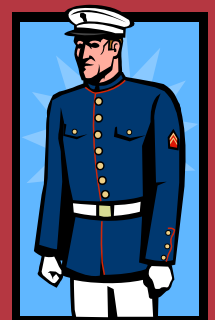
Technology Services Staff

Director of Technology
Tom Brawley

Mgr. Desktop/Network Services
Thomas Cranshaw

Mgr. Information Services
Cam Hendricks

Network Administrator
Chris Montgomery

Network Administrator
Twila Rank

Web Application Developer
Jason Curry

PEIMS Administrator
Joan Deleon

Gradebook Specialist
Savilla McEntire

Data Specialist
Tina Deleon

MIS Adm. Assistant
Arlene Knobloch

Technology Services Secretary
Leigh Ann Holloway

HelpDesk Support
Lance Cooper

Computer Technicians
Mary Roznos
David Eikenberry
Chris Thornton
Lee Dang
Santiago Paden
Cindy Fowler

Technology Services - TISD
1302 Keefer St. Suite B
Tomball, Texas 77375
281.357.3052 ph
281.357.3287 fax
www.tomballisd.net

TDAS Available from Home

TDAS is NOW available from home; however, due to the security issues, we have tightened up how the usernames and passwords work within TDAS, such as;

- Only one concurrent login per user.

- Users will be locked out of the system after several failed attempts to log in.

- Users must use Secure Login from home.

TDAS can be accessed from home by typing in the following URL: https//tdas.tomballisd.net

If you notice, there is a "S" after the http, because TDAS must use an encrypted connection from home to prevent automatic hacking attempts.

TDAS is built with many advanced technology features which work best in Internet Explorer 7.0 and TDAS will not work properly with other browsers, such as Firefox, Safari, or Google Chrome.

Free Virus Software for TISD Employees

Software provided by Sophos' End User License Agreement

SOPHOS Antivirus software is available free to Tomball ISD employees as part of TISD's license agreement with Sophos. Available for Microsoft Windows Computers Only!

To obtain a copy of the software, please contact the HelpDesk at Technology Services and check out a copy of the Installation CD. When checking out the Installation CD, you must sign an End User License Agreement and return the Installation CD the next work day.

Please read the End User License Agreement carefully and follow the installation instructions found on the CD exactly, as support for home computers is not provided by Tomball ISD or Sophos. The full Sophos User Manual is posted on the Technology Services website under Document Resources.

Checking E-mail from Home (Webmail)

To check your e-mail from home, referred to as Webmail, go to http://webmail.tomballisd.net using any browser. Your username and password is the same as your GroupWise E-mail at work.

Usernames & Passwords

Every year, Technology receives questions regarding Usernames and Passwords for Novell, TDAS, e-SchoolPLUS, FinancePLUS, and Teacher Access Center, so I hope the following article will help answer your questions.

- Novell is the District's network in which all TISD employees log into when using a computer.

- TDAS is the system used for accessing student information, TISD Documents, website management, and many other TISD applications.

- e-SchoolPLUS and FinancePLUS are the systems used by campus and district personnel for inputting student and finance data.

- Teacher Access Center (TAC) is the Gradebook System used by teachers.

All of these systems are completely different systems; however, the username and password is the same for all these systems. There is no difference in the username and password for each system. If you are prompted to change your password when you log into a computer and you change the password, then you have also changed the password for all of the above mentioned systems.

Technology Services has worked to minimize the number of different usernames and passwords needed in the District; however, there are a number of systems that use a different username and password, such as; GroupWise, Eduphoria, InfoSource, TeacherWeb, Encore and Curriculplan. If you have any questions regarding your username and password for any system in TISD, please contact the Technology HelpDesk.