

e-News

An electronic newsletter from ISD #200—Hastings Public Schools



Technology Education: *Surging Forward @ HMS*

Technology is universal, touching almost every part of our lives, our communities, our homes. Yet most schools lag far behind when it comes to integrating technology into classroom learning. Many are just beginning to explore the true potential tech offers for teaching and learning. Properly used, technology will help students acquire the skills they need to survive in a complex, highly technological knowledge-based economy. The Hastings Middle School has been fortunate to receive grants from The Hastings Public Schools Foundation as well as the Doffing Foundation which have allowed the integration of technology into the classrooms. Over the past 10 years, some of the technology that has been added to the technology education classes at Hastings Middle School, with the help of these grants, have included a laser engraver, 3-D printers and Sphero robots.

- Students use the laser engraver to engrave a design (that they created on the computers) onto the picture frames that they have built from scratch in the Woods Lab.
- Students are learning some basic 3-D design skills in class using TinkerCAD. Once they have shown a basic understanding of how to create objects they then have an opportunity to create their own design for printing.
- With Sphero robots, students are able to create and apply some basic coding skills which allows them to control the robot. We are in the works of creating several different tracks to challenge the students different coding skill levels.

Click on the computer screen below to watch a demo of these three types of technology which have been integrated into the curriculum at Hastings Middle School.



Vision 2025, Hastings Public Schools' plan for continuous improvement, began approximately three years ago. Since then, we've hosted dozens of conversations to seek ideas and input as to how to make ISD 200 the highest quality school system for all of our students. At its core, Vision 2025 intends to engage in consistent communication with our families, and members of the larger community. We'd like to begin this year seeking feedback about some District practices and your responses will help inform our next steps in making District 200 even better. Click on the link below to participate in an anonymous online survey. Thank you in advance for your time and thoughts.
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/TMXMLZP>

ALICE TRAINING: A PROACTIVE APPROACH TO SCHOOL SAFETY

The Hastings School District recognizes that student and staff safety is a top priority for our community. We have begun to evaluate our current plan for dangerous persons in the building and have come to the conclusion that a different approach is warranted. The MN Department of Education, International Association of Chiefs of Police, and the FBI all recommend having active plans that include decision making and options as a part of school lockdowns. Our administrative staff has reviewed several options and along with our School Resource Officer, have highly recommended implementing the nationally recognized ALICE program.

ALICE is a proactive approach for responding to a violent intruder. Individuals are empowered to utilize human action and build communication skills to increase their chances of survival. ALICE stands for: Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, and Evacuate. In the upcoming months we will begin to work with; local law enforcement, fire and rescue, EMT's, and area community and educational leaders as we begin training our staff on the ALICE model. Following our internal training we will then have more detailed information, and conversation, with our parents, students and community as we transition to this improved level of safety in all of our buildings.

As you begin to hear more about the ALICE program, in the upcoming months, do not hesitate to ask questions as we move forward with this nationally recognized program.