



Technology Report

November 2023

2400 MASON EAGLES DR.
ERIE, MI 48133
ERIE.MASON.K12.MI.US

Projects:

Projects	Next Step	Next Milestone Dates
E-Rate Filing	Prep narrative (wifi extension and/or batteries)	11/30/23
99h Grant	Online Completion (NexSys)	12/1/23
Lego League	Competition	12/2/23
Dell Azure Stack HCI	Environment Data Export	12/31/23
CTE Cert Prep & Orders	Order cert prep materials and project for Sem. 2	12/31/23

Additional Project Details:

- **E-Rate Filing** – We are in the last year of the 5-year cycle of e-Rate funding for Category 2. Superintendents voted to allocate funding to fiber and firewall projects. Normally, funds should be allocated for each cycle since the Lenawee-Monroe Technology Consortium is our districts' internet service provider as well as maintains our firewall security (amongst other services). For our remaining funds we usually purchase switches, wireless, battery backups, or other authorized projects for data delivery. Our Meraki access points are still running the latest WiFi protocol, so I may extend it another year as WiFi 7, according to Qualcomm, is in the wings for a 2024/2025 release.
- **99h Grant** – The robotics 99h grant is due by Dec. 1. I will be working on this after I return from MAEDS.
- **Lego League** – The elementary program can have 10 students at a competition (which is on Dec. 2 at McBride Middle School in Belleville, Michigan). We are planning on meeting on several Saturday and Tuesdays from now until competition date. The pre-season events were attended very well with (43) 4th & 5th students at the first session. Interest was also high on Saturday, Oct. 14 with our final session slated for Saturday, Oct. 21.
- **Dell Azure Stack HCI** – I have been meeting with Dell Technologies on spec'ing a new server farm for Mason Consolidated Schools. The Azure Stack HCI is Microsoft's newest version of the Hyper-converged infrastructure. As we move closer to the end-of-life of our current servers, it will be good to move to the latest offering for datacenters.
- **CTE** – As we approach the end of the 1st quarter, students will be starting to prep for certification paths and deciding on their project-based work for the second semester. Last year we had a lot of great projects (e.g. 3D printing, game design, computer build, etc). This year's 61a funding allocation was \$29,195.68 for expenditure in the system's administration program (separate from 61c).



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Building Summaries:

Central Elementary School – I updated HMH’s Ed Assignment’s security settings within our Google third-party apps since security protocols now require the sign on passthrough to be “Verified.”

Mason Middle School – All robot parts and game pieces were delivered to the 3 science teachers at the middle school. Their competition is slated for 11/18 at Bedford’s FTC qualifier. Study Island’s NWEA integration has been completed. Students now have personalized learning paths for the program to help them advance in areas they need assistance.

Mason High School – This year’s first email phishing exercise was sent out to help train employees on what to look for regarding email scams. Insurance companies are expanding their requirements in many school districts across the United States since K-12 schools are often the target of ransomware. The Microsoft Bookings link was updated and sent to the principal for conferences on Oct. 17.

District Information, Ed Tech, and Various:

- **Updates** – On October 17 I applied the recommended actions Cisco provided for their IOS XE software. Although our switches are not connected directly to the internet, I wanted to ensure that even an internal data breach would not affect our network infrastructure. I have been given the green light by our phone vendor to apply the next OS build (since a major revision was released). The update will take place on a Friday after school as a precautionary measure to ensure I am given enough time to revert in the event of an unforeseen issue with the upgrade.
- **Apple Update** – On Oct. 23 Apple will be requiring an acceptance of their newest terms and conditions. Over the past couple of years schools have seen quite a few changes in T&C with all 3 major computer companies. For example, Google has removed quite a bit of functionality from the Workspace for EDU suite due to lawsuits (e.g. YouTube restrictions, Photos suite removal from students, website build limitations, age-based API deprecation, etc.).
- **Photos updated** – All student photos for the district were updated to Meal Magic, Infinite Campus, and Destiny.

Orders:

- **Interactive Displays** – 3 additional interactive displays are in queue to be purchased to help with learning loss. These displays will allow students in the 3 areas at the elementary to use Chromebooks or iPads to interact with the displays in conjunction with their device as a part of learning loss intervention.
- **PA System** – Fairchild is quoting a revamp of the PA system for the district. We currently utilize the Bogen system in both elementary and high school. This expansion for the district would allow a better system for security and communication throughout all 3 schools.

Hour Report/Tickets:

- **Ticket Standings** (as of 10/2/23): We closed 83 tickets, 1 is pending, and 1 new. That is already 10 more than last year’s entire month of October with 7 more business days left to go in the month (report sent early due to MAEDS conference from 10/25 to 10/27).