



EduBytes

Empowering Staff & Students
One Byte at a Time

Starting Tech Strong for the New School Year

Welcome back! Now that your class is set up, your initial planning is done, and the students have arrived, you'll hopefully have some time to review the tips and tricks in this newsletter. Our aims with this monthly newsletter are to focus on simple tips for integrating technology into your instructional practice, keep you updated on changes to tools and procedures, and inspire you to try one new thing this month to give your students the digital skills they need to thrive in our rapidly changing world.



If you have questions or need support for technology related needs, please [submit a support ticket](#). **Managed Bookmarks --> Help Desk Web --> Request Something or Report an Issue**

Staff Spotlight

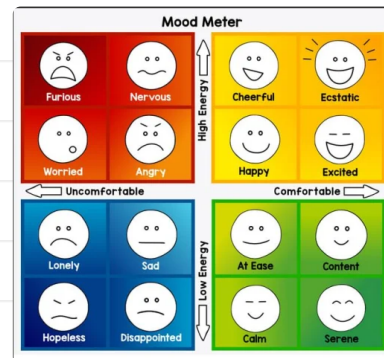
Do you know of a staff member who is using technology in an innovative way? Maybe they have students interacting with panels, are using AI in creative ways, or they've developed a useful digital system to help track work or make some aspect of their work more efficient. It could be anything! If it's impressed you, we want to know about it. [Nominate the staff member here](#) and we'll go visit and get more information to share here each month. Learning from colleagues is some of the best professional development you can find.

Instructional Focus of the Month

Using the Panel to support Community Building/SEL

Boost Classroom Community & SEL with [Pre-Designed Mood Meters](#) on the Interactive Panels!

Curious about how your students are feeling as they enter the classroom? Use the interactive Mood Meter on your panel! This tool helps students identify and express their emotions, fostering a supportive classroom environment. Choose from over a dozen pre-made ready-to-use activities from the Canvas Instructional Hardware Portal. Download and present them with ease and engage your students within minutes. **Explore the portal today to discover all the amazing resources available!**



Need help or want to create more activities? Submit a PD Request ticket, and we'll be happy to assist!

AI in the Workplace



Human Centered AI

This is the year of AI for Everett School District! We've spoken with students, and last night was the first in a series of AI meetings with a group of teachers and admin who are going to help us develop an implementation plan that's in line with our district AI policy. The goal is to safely, responsibly and ethically implement AI use for students over the course of this year.

The [guidance from OSPI for AI use](#) reminds us all to take a Human Centered approach to AI. AI is a powerful tool but should be used with clear purpose and all AI output should be reviewed for bias and accuracy before sharing it or using it with others. Keep an eye out, there will be more information and professional development opportunities coming soon.

Supporting Equity with Technology

Feature Updates in Parent Square



ParentSquare is our district's new, adopted communication platform. It auto-translates into over 100 different languages so all our families can access information from school. Staff and families have already been invited to join, but our secondary students, grades 6-12, can join too! Encourage them to download the StudentSquare app to their phone so they can communicate with teachers and stay up to date with happenings at their school, too!

To support conference sign ups we can enable ParentSquare appointment signups at a principal's request through a help desk ticket. This feature allows for teacher's to offer appointments slots for conferences or coordinating volunteer sign ups, etc.

StudentSquare Instructions in [English](#) and [Spanish](#) here

Digital Citizenship & Media Literacy

Media Literacy

AI has made the creation of misinformation even easier than before. Helping students, and adults, learn to Fact Check is becoming a vital media literacy skill for everyone. The [News Literacy Project](#) has a number of great resources for teachers and librarians who want lessons or ideas for teaching Media Literacy in their classrooms. Check out these [Daily Do Now slides](#) for 4-12 grade. They are intended to fill 5-10 min discussions or be used as bell ringers to give students small doses of media literacy practice. They update every week to give you new topics.

Digital Tool Tips

Launch the Year with Tech Success

Google Sites

As communicated last year, Google Sites has been disabled for students by default. However, it can be enabled for students for specific instructional needs or projects. If you wish to use Google Sites with your students, please submit a helpdesk ticket. We will then ask your administrator to confirm with you the need/use case

for Google Sites, and then communicate next steps for how your students can access it.

As an alternative, the district provides every student with an Adobe Express account. This service provides website drag and drop building similar to Google Sites, as well as photo editing and graphic design. For more information on Adobe Express, please visit the Digital Tools Portal in Canvas or submit a helpdesk ticket with a training request.



Unplug'd - Teacher Control Center Options and Settings

Want tips on setting up and using your panel to make instruction more accessible to students?

While we have created many panel support tips in the [Instructional Hardware Portal](#), here are a few that will help you as you start the year.

Teacher Control Center:

- The Teacher Control Center controls who and when someone can share their device's screen to a panel. It is recommended that you set up the following [Teacher Control Center settings](#) to require authorization when sharing to the panel.
- To access the Teacher Control Center from the panel, click the Moderator Button.

Sound Settings:

- If you are having trouble hearing sounds when playing videos on your panel, here are some quick steps to modify your [sound settings](#).

Connecting to the Panel:

- Unplug'd is the PREFERRED app to wirelessly share the screen from your device to the Boxlight Interactive Panel. Use Unplug'd to share presentations from your computer such as daily lesson slides and more! You can even show your document camera on the panel.
- [Elementary Panel - Wireless Connection Directions](#)
- [Secondary Panel - Wireless Connection Directions](#)

**** Please note:** If you want to **stream** a video to your panel, you will need to hardwire your device to your panel (i.e. from Hulu, Disney+, Amazon Prime).

- Elementary Panel - Hardwired Connection Directions

- [Secondary Panel - Hardwired Connection Directions](#)

Updating Lynx Software

Unlike past years, this fall you will need to install the latest version of Lynx from the Software Center (version 8.3.8.0) in order to connect your panel to your OneDrive or Google Drive folders using Lynx. You will need to do the same steps for both your district laptop and your nano device. Here are the [directions for updating your Lynx software](#). Please note: The district will be pushing new Lynx firmware to your panel, so you will not need to change that device.

What's Changed this Month?

Change is the new normal in our world and we'll try to keep you updated with what's coming or what's changed this month. Keep yourself up to date so you aren't surprised by what comes next.

Canvas - Here are the changes Canvas made over the summer:

- [Smart Search](#) - AI powered search for your course to help you find content
- [Discussion Summaries](#) - Uses AI to summarize the highlights of class discussions in Canvas
- [Enhanced Rubric Maker](#) - They've moved the rubric maker out of assignments to make it easier to build rubrics more centrally and make them accessible to any of your courses
- [Lucid](#) - Canvas bought Lucid Charts and has integrated it into the Rich Content Editor and as an assignment option for students. There are several pre-built educational graphic organizers for things like Venn Diagrams, T-charts and more that can be added to your pages and assignments. We are waiting on an agreement from the vendor and then we'll open it up for student use.

Synergy - the LITS team is hard at work learning Synergy, setting up systems and working on data conversion to get ready for the Synergy launch in **July 2025**. We'll begin training various groups this spring and building training resources so we can make the transition as smooth as possible for all staff. As you can imagine, its a huge project to move all of our data to a new system and reconnect all of our services to the new tool. We'll update you here as we have milestones and important info to share.



Karen Hickenbottom

Karen is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters