

Dear Teachers,

Welcome to school year 2009-2010! We hope you all had a relaxing and restful summer.

Every new year brings changes in students, teachers, administrators, educational programs and services. This newsletter is designed to spotlight and inform you about the enhanced collaboration between DoDEA education and IT. When you read these articles you must remember that countless hours of discussion, audits, research, and frank exchanges of our DoDEA vision have occurred between education and IT. As the year presses forward we will continue these discussions in order to provide teachers and students with the tools and support to foster continuous improvement, increase student achievement, and uphold accountability. We trust you will find this quarterly newsletter to be helpful and meaningful.

Have a great year!

Sincerely,

Dr. Marc Mossburg Mr. Jeffrey Friedler
Chief of Curriculum CIO



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Deployment of DoDEA's New Password Mandates

As a Department of Defense organization we face the reality that while we don't handle guns or missiles, or move troops, we are interconnected to the military networks in various ways. DoD Cyber Security policies and programs are designed to protect sensitive information, which includes data tied to DoDEA students, employees, families and deployments. We are therefore bound by, and held accountable to, the security requirements established for the entire scope and protection of the DoD.

To ensure a smooth school startup throughout DoDEA we implemented new passwords after one week following the first day of school. Thank you for making this a successful.

New student passwords began on their first day of class.

Here are some tips for teachers' passwords:

1. The adult accounts, to include classroom accounts (where applicable in lower grades and special programs), will require a 14 character password that changes every 60 days. For classroom accounts, teachers will have one password for all computers in their classrooms. These passwords must contain a mix of characters and numbers (which is the current standard).
2. Avoid common phrases, song lyrics, or quotations as these can be easy for hackers to guess.
3. You can create an acronym from the letters of the words in a phrase or quotation that is memorable to you (e.g., "To be or not to be?" could become 2BRnot2B?). Passphrases provide a good way to compose strong, lengthy passwords that are easier to remember, easier to type, and naturally complex.
4. Also, remember that students and teachers will be locked out after three failed attempts to login with incorrect passwords.

For more information and ideas see <http://www.microsoft.com/protect/yourself/password/create.aspx>. A safe password checker is additionally available at <http://www.microsoft.com/protect/yourself/password/checker.aspx>. Please feel free to work with your ET for further guidance.

If you have questions, comments, or concerns about this new implementation please contact Mr. Jeffrey Friedler, DoDEA's CIO, via email (Jeffrey.Friedler@hq.dodea.edu).

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Team DoDEA
4040 North Fairfax Dr.
Arlington, VA 22203
(703) 588-3195



dodea
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE EDUCATION ACTIVITY

Online Educational Collaboration Opportunities

All DoDEA employees have access to a Department of Defense tool known as Defense Connect Online (DCO). The DCO collaboration tool is a commercial product provided by DoD through a partnership with Adobe and Jabber. DCO provides 24x7 collaboration services, to include secure instant messaging, low-bandwidth text chat, web conferencing, shared whiteboards, desktop/application/presentation sharing, and the ability to invite personnel outside the Department of Defense (DoD) into collaboration sessions.

While video and voice capabilities are available within DCO these features are not currently supported for use at the school level due to the significant impact on other online educational activities. A standard webcam and microphone configuration is being developed for future implementation.

Potential user benefits of this tool include: greater collaboration with colleagues worldwide, just in time training, greater contact with District, Area, and Headquarters staff, Webinars on timely topics, collaborative CSI sessions and other forums as necessary. Regretfully, at this time, due to resource impact, students cannot have access to DCO.

Defense Connect Registration and Training:

1. With your CAC in your system's card reader, navigate to <https://www.dco.dod.mil>
2. Click on the "Register" link.
3. Fill in the fields that are editable for your registration profile.
4. On-Demand training is offered at <https://www.dco.dod.mil/public/dsp/tutorials.cfm>
5. Live training is offered on a scheduled basis via <https://www.dco.dod.mil/public/dsp/liveTraining.cfm>

For additional assistance and/or information please contact

DCO_Help@hq.dodea.edu.

Curriculum/Technology Infusion of Macintosh Computers

DoDEA Education and IT have been working closely together to introduce a standardized Mac platform for support of the Visual Arts, Music and Video curriculum worldwide. This technology is limited to student use within these specific curricular areas due to the industry standards for these career fields. The implementation plan includes hardware and training for IT support communities. This infusion will continue to occur over the next 90 to 120 days.

This initiative will also ensure full integration of existing Mac computers into the current DoDEA IT infrastructure. Several of the enhancements will include common configurations, the ability to utilize existing DoDEA logon credentials, access to user Home and Common directories and DISA compliant security.

For additional assistance and/or information please contact
Dr. Mark Bignell
(Mark.Bignell@hq.dodea.edu) or
Mr. Richard Gamble
(Richard.Gamble@hq.dodea.edu)

Bandwidth

DoDEA Education and IT continue to discuss the day to day educational challenges based on the current bandwidth limitations. To that end, DoDEA IT has implemented a bandwidth monitoring application to gain a better understanding of enterprise bandwidth issues. DoDEA IT is also coordinating with vendors and evaluating the available options for enhanced bandwidth technologies across the enterprise.



PC Lifecycle Update

Some important facts to begin:

DoDEA's worldwide technology infrastructure consists of approximately 51,000 desktop PCs and 15,000+ laptops.

The average computer lifecycle replacement period for an organization of our size is typically 5 years. Based on our existing infrastructure we would need to refresh 13,200 computers per year at an estimated annual cost of \$10M.

The average computer age in DoDEA is 6+ years with some as old as 10 years.

DoDEA's official (and sustainable) student to PC ratio is 2:1. Our current student to PC ratios range from 0.6 :1 to 4:1, thus creating a rather large inequality predicament.

These challenges required immediate action, to include a systemic plan designed to return DoDEA to a 5 year lifecycle, while restoring the 2:1 PC ratio. We started planning, budgeting for, and coordinating an enterprise lifecycle plan approximately one year ago. The first year of the lifecycle replacement initiative was prioritized based on our budget, as well as the age and capabilities of computers DoDEA wide.

Based on the results of the analysis it was determined that the greatest need for lifecycle replacement was in DoDDS-Europe. For this reason the largest technology refresh was centered around legacy systems in DoDDS-E. This refresh ensured that DoDDS-Europe achieved the same minimum baseline standards as DoDDS-Pacific and DDESS. Year two of the lifecycle plan is focused on continued system wide PC refreshment.

The future lifecycle replacement will incorporate DoDEA minimum standards for computer distributions and configurations. In order to provide equity to all programs and students, schools will no longer be able to purchase computers with UFR money. Schools should indicate their need for new computers through the Districts to the Areas. Computer orders will then be consolidated (thus getting better pricing) and centralized. These standards will undergo continued refinement based on curriculum related technology requirements, classroom ratios, and other educational guidance. Continued cooperation between Education and IT the lifecycle replacement initiative will provide long term benefits to all DoDEA students and educational programs.

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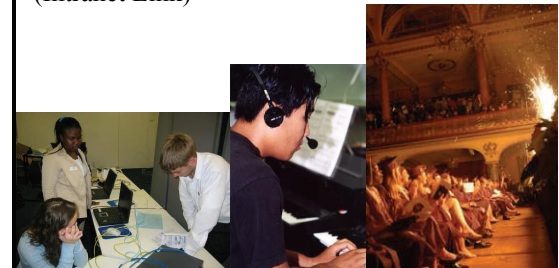
Technology Troubleshooting

Whether it's new software to install, a temperamental printer, or the blue screen of death, your IT Area is ready to help you resolve the problem. All computer related problems need to be logged with the Area Service Desk so we can track service level commitments, problem trends, and manpower resources. The following links provide details on opening a ticket and resolving an IT problem in your Area.

DoDDS-Europe: <http://eu-mzka-svdsk01.eu.ds.dodea.edu/caisd/pdmweb.exe>
(Intranet Link)

DoDDS-Pacific: <http://helpdesk.dpi.pac.dodea.edu>
(Intranet Link)

DDESS: <http://helpdesk.am.ds.dodea.edu/aexhd>
(Intranet Link)



Q: Who invented the Internet?

A: The Internet was originally developed by Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency, DARPA, in 1975.

