BREAK THROUGH THE DIGITAL DILEMMA AND TAKE YOUR *SCHOOL* TO THE NEXT LEVEL

IKON INSIGHTS

TECHNOLOGY NEWS FOR K-12 SCHOOLS
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In the digital age, technology and information are growing faster than ever before, and the schools that are succeeding all have one thing in common: a growth mindset.

Schools that aren't looking to grow and evolve get stale quickly, and this becomes more apparent with each technological advancement. In order for your students to succeed, you will need to develop a growth mindset within your school. There are a few things you can do to adapt and create a mindset that will catapult your student experience and learning outcomes.

The first thing is to continue promoting a learning and mentoring ideology within your school. There's always room for growth; you just need to encourage it. You should also encourage innovation by establishing areas where external and internal sources can communicate. Also, stay informed and ahead forward-thinking by paying attention to new technology. Lastly, don't be afraid of feedback. It can help your school adapt and help you to discover any shortcomings.

FACEBOOK RECENTLY LAUNCHED IT'S METAVERSE, AND IT'S A PRIVACY NIGHTMARE!

Facebook is in the process of unveiling hardware and other technology to support its metaverse, even calling this new network "Meta." The social media platform has seen a recent decrease in users who cite mistrust as a key factor in their departure. A Facebook whistleblower, Frances Haugen, has stated that the virtual reality world could give Facebook another opportunity to steal even more personal information from its users.

Haugen said users will be required to set up many sensors throughout their home, which will encourage them to detract from reality and enter the virtual world. The idea of adding sensors into users' homes is a privacy nightmare. Trust in Facebook is already low, and Meta will have to ensure their system is safe if they hope for success.

IT'S BEEN COINED THE 'GREAT RESIGNATION,' BUT WHY ARE EMPLOYEES WALKING OUT IN DROVES?

Everywhere you look, it seems like more businesses are putting out "Help Wanted" signs, and schools have especially been hit hard by teacher shortages. People quitting in educational services shot up 148% during the 11-month period, and those leaving in state and local education rose 40%, the data showed. Limeade, an organization that specializes in employee well-being, recently released the results of a study that focused on why people were leaving their jobs. Burnout was the top reason most employees quit. Through surveys and conversations with your team, you can discover if burnout is an issue in your school. Introducing mental health days and finding ways to equally distribute workloads can help prevent burnout.

People who recently left their jobs also stated that they wanted a more flexible or caring culture. Employees need time for themselves and will become unhappy if they feel work is taking away from that time.

"I back up my files religiously. I pray nothing happens to them."

This monthly publication provided courtesy of IKON Business Group.

IKON is a premium IT consulting company focused on providing K-12 schools with customized technology solutions and personalized support.

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CYBER SECURITY – IS YOUR SCHOOL PREPARED?

Over the past few years, instances of cyberthreats have increased at an alarming rate, and they don't seem to be slowing down anytime soon. Awareness around cyber security has certainly improved over the past year, with 9 in 10 Americans stating that they are somewhat concerned about hacking that involves their personal information, financial institutions, government agencies or certain utilities. But while awareness has increased, so have the rates of cyber-attacks.

Last year, people had more data breaches from January to October 2021 than in all of 2020. As we continue through 2022, there's no reason to assume this year will be any different. In order to ensure that your school is protected this year and every year after, you should take the proper precautions regarding cyber security. If your school falls prey to a cyber-attack, you risk tarnishing your reputation and will have families questioning whether it's safe to entrust their children with you.

Below are a couple of the best cyber security practices you can put in place to fully prepare for cyber-attacks and threats.

HIRE AN EXPERIENCED MANAGED SERVICES PROVIDER

Amid a growing reliance on technology due to the coronavirus pandemic, cyberattacks have become a growing threat to schools across the country – leading to school shutdowns and to demands for more funding to address the problem. Schools often have limited budgets for cybersecurity safeguards and have become targets of more attacks. Hiring an MSP with cybersecurity expertise is the most affordable and best way to protect your school.

MSPs are designed to identify and resolve any weak points in your IT infrastructure. MSPs are focused on being proactive and will also focus on IT support and advanced security. You'll get around-the-clock monitoring, data encryption and backup, network and firewall protection, security awareness training and so much more. With MSPs, you get a team of dedicated IT professionals who are available to assist with any tech dilemmas that may arise. It's the quickest and most cost-efficient way to fully protect your organization.

TRAIN YOUR STAFF

If your staff hasn't been trained to be cyber-secure, they need to be trained on this subject immediately. Security should also be built into the devices they use to access school data. This becomes even more important if your works remotely. Multifactor identification and ensuring that employees create complex and non-repetitive passwords go a long way toward keeping you protected.

Educate staff about the most common forms of cyber-attacks. They should be aware of phishing e-mails and texts and should be taught to never open any links if they don't know who the sender is. Hackers have also started to frequent social media, and they often target individuals through various platforms. Make sure people aren't clicking on any social media spam links that could put your network at risk. Lastly, make sure they aren't accidentally downloading any malware that could create disastrous outcomes for your school.

A cyber-attack can have cataclysmic effects on a school, and every school needs to make sure its network is protected. If you don't know where to start, give us a call and we will find a way to help you make your school as cyber-protected as possible.

PARTNER SPOTLIGHT
BOBBY GIURINTANO, TGI OFFICE AUTOMATION

TGI. Thinking Great Ideas. TGI Office Automation is a comprehensive office technology provider offering scalable solutions. From copiers and supplies to document and mailroom management, TGI's solutions are designed to help integrate the flow of information more efficiently.
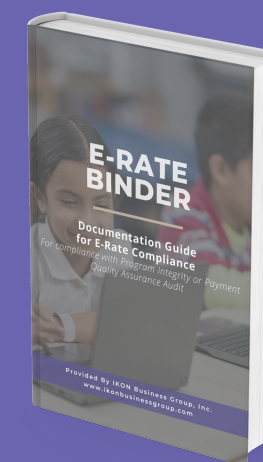
Bobby started his career with TGI Office Automation over 19 years ago. Having minimal sales experience and industry knowledge, he took the time to learn how the features and benefits of digital copiers and document management solutions can improve a company's bottom line. Today Bobby has personally worked with over 400 companies in the NYC area helping them identify the pitfalls they face while lowering their overall costs. For the last 7 years Bobby has been a million-dollar producer at TGI Office Automation. Because of his dedication to customer service and support he has the highest customer retention rate at TGI with over 95% of his customers returning year after year.

For more information about TGI Office Automation, contact Bobby Giurintano directly at bgiurintano@tgioa.com or (718) 237-0060 x1112.

CHESS NEVER CHECKERS PARTNERS WITH IMAGINE THAT TO HELP POSITIVELY IMPACT STUDENTS THROUGH THE GAME OF CHESS

Co-Founded by Lasana Williams, Noah Woods, and Isiah Cosbert, ChessNeverCheckers (CNC) is a creative agency out of Brooklyn that prides itself on thinking out-of-the-box. The agency consists of music management, clothing merchandise and other entrepreneurial outlets.

CNC has recently partnered with chess academy and community service organization, Imagine That to help design and organize local chess tournaments, connect with sponsors, and provide uniforms and merchandise for the coaches and players.

Imagine That works with kids all throughout NYC schools, teaching them the game of chess and providing a safe space to compete locally while gaining national chess exposure. CNC is fully on board with supporting Imagine That's mission to make chess more appealing to a broader range of students by bringing the same level of interest and excitement typically associated with celebrities and athletes.

Imagine That produced its first tournament designed by CNC at P.S. 166 in Queens and has since gone on to organize weekly tournaments throughout the city while preparing students to qualify and compete at the national level. In addition to directing and filming the events, CNC also provides fun incentives like customized apparel and chessboards help draw the kids in. But it's the camaraderie and valuable life lessons they learn that keep them coming back. For all parties involved with the initiative, chess represents a great metaphor for the game of life: it's all about making the right moves, associating with the right people, and keeping yourself in a positive frame of mind.

For more information about CNC, visit their Instagram account @chessnvrcheckers, or send an email to lcncmanagement@gmail.com.

FREE ON-DEMAND WEBINAR:
HOW TO USE AN E-RATE BINDER TO MAINTAIN COMPLIANCE & PASS AN AUDIT

Did you know that E-Rate can go back through your records for the last 10 years during an audit? The E-Rate program and its processes can be complicated and confusing. Rules change annually, and the government has recently increased funding during the pandemic which will likely trigger a higher number of audits in the coming year.

The number one key to a successful E-Rate audit is to be organized and compliant. It's vital that you keep all of your important documents well-organized and easily accessible. This webinar will teach you how to get the most out of your E-Rate binder and the important steps you must take to ensure your school is prepared for an audit.

Watch today at: https://info.ikonbusinessgroup.com/erate-binder