

## Bryan Williams, Technician

There's a bumper sticker around town that reads "I'm not from Pittsylvania County, but I got here as fast as I could." Such is the case of Bryan Williams and especially when it comes to the Information Technology Department. The most recent hire, Mr. Bryan Williams joined the IT staff effective January, 2013.

The Danville native is a graduate of George Washington High and a Danville Community College alumni, focusing on electronics. After completing college, Bryan spent many years in Raleigh, North Carolina before returning to Virginia and ultimately to Pittsylvania County.

With more than fifteen years experience in the field, Bryan is no stranger to Information Technology. While his college studies and first love were in electronics, Bryan gradually found himself more and more involved with computers. When his father owned and operated a computer store locally, Bryan worked with him part-time and got a taste of this new line of work. It was from that experience that he decided to change his career focus to be full-time in the computer field.

Bryan is the proud father of an eleven year old son who attends Dan River Middle. He attributes his interest in seeking employment with PCS after his involvement with our schools. As a single parent, he was especially appreciative of the care shown by PCS employees to his child. "The teachers and staff were always extremely helpful and went out of their way to make sure he was situated," he says.

There's almost nothing Bryan enjoys more than tinkering with computer and video equipment both on and off the job. There is one thing, though, that he enjoys the most. When he gets out of his work van, he's eager to take a spin on his Harley Shovelhead along with his son.

Welcome home to Pittsylvania County Schools, Bryan. We're glad you're here.

### THE ITRT CORNER

#### 2013-2014 Instructional Technology Resource Teachers and Their School Assignments

##### Cathy Scolpini, Lead ITRT: Network Operations Center

**Elizabeth Bailess** Gretna Elementary  
Hurt Elementary  
Mt. Airy Elementary  
Union Hall Elementary

**Teresa Cannady** Kentuck Elementary  
Southside Elementary  
Stony Mill Elementary

**Kay Jones** Brosville Elementary  
Chatham Elementary  
Twin Springs Elementary

**Susan Franklin-Smith** Gretna Middle  
Gretna High  
Chatham High

**Burt Sparks** Dan River Middle  
Dan River High  
Tunstall High

**Brenna Takata** Chatham Middle  
Tunstall Middle  
PCTC/RAS

#### Training Sessions: AUP and Internet Safety

Beginning with the 2013 – 2014 school year, **Acceptable Use Policy and Internet Safety Education** updates will be provided for instructional employees during faculty meetings throughout the school year. All instructional employees are expected to attend these sessions.

#### August 2013

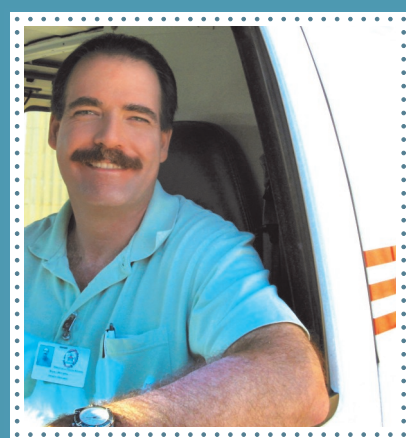
Revisions to the Acceptable Use Policy  
Addition of AUP Splash Screen  
Role of School Personnel in Student Adherence to AUP

#### October/November 2013

Cyberbullying  
Resources for Students/School Personnel/Parents

#### January/February/March 2014

Digital Footprint  
Digital Profile & Future Implications



## The Early Birds: Meet the IT Staff

ISSUE  
**02**  
August  
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INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

# TechTimes



### Early On...

### Welcome to Tech Times!

The Information Technology Department is pleased to bring you our second issue of Tech Times.

It is our hope to keep administrators, teachers, staff, parents and students up to date on what's happening with technology in our schools.

Our newsletter will be brought to you each semester with the latest information available to us.

Jeffrey B. Early, Ph.D.  
Assistant Superintendent for Operations

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this issue

Connect 5 P.1

Video Conferencing P.2

Pacing Guides P.3

AUP P.3

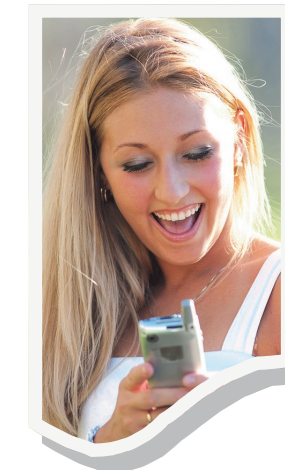
PowerSchool P.3

Meet the Early Birds P.4

ITRT Corner P.4

## Blackboard's Connect 5

Blackboard isn't just for classroom instruction any more. Instead, this multifaceted company has introduced a new service called Connect 5. Think of Connect 5 like you do our current program, AlertNow.



Not only does Connect 5 do what AlertNow can do, it can do even more. For example, AlertNow dials the phone numbers in its database to receive announcements. Connect 5 is also capable of sending text messages and emails as well.

Connect 5 will be operational with the beginning of school. IT Analyst Ashley Clowers will be available to provide training to principals who request it.

### This Math Training Really Adds Up

Are you an elementary or middle school math teacher? We've got 12 slots for the **SMARTer Math Instruction: Using Technology to Teach Math** workshops to be held in September. Attendees will also receive professional development credit (10 points) upon completion of two lessons using the technology tools covered in the training. To register and find out more [visit this web site](#). Participants will receive enrollment confirmation by way of email.



# Curriculum Alignment

Welcome back, teachers! The Pacing Guides have been updated. Be sure to visit the Teacher Web for links to each grade level and subject area. You'll find lots of great resources in the password protected site. Not sure how to login? Just check with your ITRT for instructions regarding the user name and password.

## The AUP...Protecting You & Our Network

The Pittsylvania County Schools' Information Technology Department, like all other departments within our school division, exists to support instruction. Part of supporting instruction is protecting the integrity, stability, and speed of our network so that all students and staff may have access to this essential tool. The Pittsylvania County School Board has long recognized the need to monitor and protect our network and the use of computer equipment. This need has been articulated in School Board Policy, IIBG-PC, Computer Technology Acceptable Use & Internet Safety, since 1999.

Section 4.9 of this policy forbids bringing personal equipment such as Ethernet cables onto school grounds. There is a very good reason for this section. Extending the cabling can cause network errors or collisions. Errors on the network generally mean information requested and received must be transmitted multiple times, increasing

the amount of network traffic and slowing the internet/network down for everyone. The cumulative effect of multiple people at multiple sites extending the network by installing their own personal cables is a slower and less stable network for the entire division.

As more and more devices attach either wirelessly or physically to our network, protection of the network becomes increasingly important. As you are aware, everything from classroom and teacher computers, SOL testing, Powerschool, nursing, and central office applications, to name but a few, all are connected and dependent upon a fast and stable network.



## Video Conferencing

When the March 2013 Teachers' Advisory Committee was held, not one teacher showed up at the School Board Office. It wasn't because they were being uncooperative, it's because there was no need to make the drive. Stationed in each of the high schools, is a video conference room. This setup provides the means for everyone to meet in a location nearest their base school. Pictured are each of the high school cameras broadcasting the same image in each location as well in the Central Office. Video conferencing is the next best thing to being there...without the expense of travel and time. Look forward to many more video conferences in the future and think about the ways that you can use this feature in your own schools.



**New for 2013-2014**

**All users of our computer equipment will find a splash screen requiring that all abide by the Acceptable Use Policy or AUP. The AUP is School Board Policy for all users of PCS equipment.**

**<http://www.pcs.k12.va.us/aup/>**

