

**FBISD Listening Tour FAQ
Bush High School
November 16, 2016**

Technology

Can there be more standardization and simplification of the various ways used to communicate with parents and students across the District? I have seen text messages, Facebook, Twitter, Skyward, Edmodo, Weebly and Quizlet, all used by various schools my kids attend this year.

As we continue our process to update our technologies, the District has also begun to standardize our set of communication tools including moving all of our campus websites to a new, user-friendly platform.

We are currently in the final phase of launching new websites for all campuses and teachers. All campuses in the District will have a new website by December 2016. The District and campus websites were designed to have a consistent look and feel in order to make it easy for our parents and students to find important information. Guidelines set forth by the Department of School Leadership require all FBISD teachers to maintain a webpage on their campus website. This will reduce the number of external websites being used by our teachers such as Weebly, Sitebuilder, etc.

Looking ahead, the District is in the process of implementing a Learning Management System (Schoolgy), that will allow our teachers to create, manage and share content and resources for their classroom. Schoolgy is a cloud-based platform that provides tools to manage our classrooms. Schoolgy will replace tools such as Edmodo, Classroom Dojo, etc.

Our District and campus administrators utilize School Messenger to communicate with parents/guardians via email, phone and text messages. Parents/guardians have the opportunity to select the way they'd like to receive their messages by accessing Skylert through their Skyward Family Access account.

Skyward Family Access is Fort Bend ISD's official student information system. It provides our teachers with gradebooks and our students/parents the ability to see updated grades.

College and Post-Secondary Readiness

Since students are asked to pick a career track, what supports are in place to help students that are still undeclared?

Students who are not sure what they want to do for a career and are having difficulty choosing a career path (endorsement), can utilize several assessment tools available in Naviance including, Strengths Explorer, Career Cluster Finder and Career Interest Profiler. These tools can help a student narrow down potential career paths and ultimately choose an

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endorsement. Additionally, each middle school hosts a Career Day event where many varying occupations are represented and speakers from various fields talk about what the specific career requires, the benefits and the downsides. CTE also provides numerous opportunities for students to take specific courses to broaden their knowledge and experience for many professions. Lastly, students have the opportunity to discuss their interests and potential career choices with their counselor or CCR Advisor. If they are still unsure, choosing the Multidisciplinary Endorsement will allow them to take a broader range of courses and still receive an endorsement.

BHS Theatre Arts

What supports are in place to assist students in the theatre arts program to travel and perform and learn? This is related to the trip to Scotland.

The Board of Trustees approved the opportunity for BHS students to travel to Scotland. Fundraising is handled at the campus level. Usually organizations begin well in advance and plan multiple ways to offset the expenses knowing that participants usually pay a portion of the costs. Various fundraisers such as car washes, selling items, fun runs, etc. are used. It is best to work directly with the Director of the Theatre Department and the campus principal to seek solutions to offset the cost.

Facilities

Why do teachers have to clear and reset their rooms year to year?

General and preventive maintenance is accomplished during the summer months while students and staff are on break. Clearing classrooms of teaching materials allows the work to be accomplished without damage or loss. Summer cleaning is integral to keeping the facility free of rodents and to disinfect all areas. Custodial crews literally wash the walls, desks, cabinets, etc. allowing for a deep cleaning and a fresh start to the new year for students and staff.

It appears that schools are under designed as portables appear after the first year. When/how does the model for the actual size get updated?

School size is determined by educational specifications which are developed by staff and approved by the Board. Due to the cost of construction, schools at FBISD are designed with a larger core capacity (kitchen, cafeteria, gym, library, etc.) than the actual anticipated student capacity on day one. Portables are less expensive than constructing additional classrooms, which could be empty when the school opens, therefore school designs include locations on the site for at least three portable buildings. Even though there are instances when portables are

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required after the first year, in most cases the need for additional space is three to four years out.