

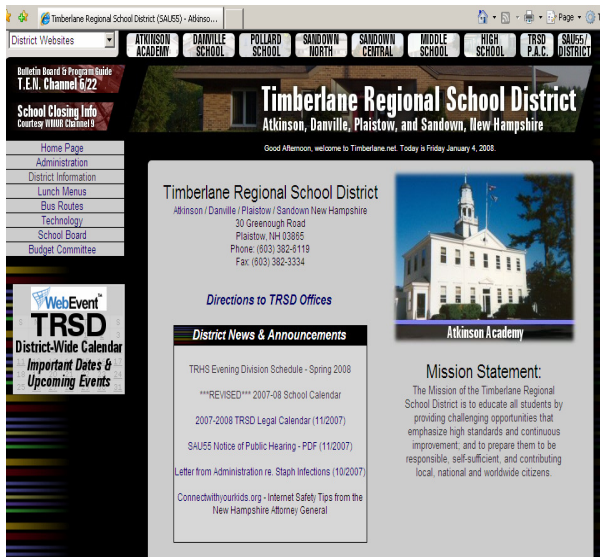
Technology Newsletter

Winter 2008

New Timberlane.net Website

In November, TRSD Technology rolled out a newly redesigned Timberlane.net. This serves as the website for the Timberlane Regional School District, and hosts information relevant to all schools and the district as a whole. Administrative contacts, School Board policies, Budget Committee reports, employment information, and much more can easily found on the site.

In addition to the district information already available on the site, Timberlane.net serves as a portal to all the schools and departments which maintain their own web presence. The layout is designed to accommodate growth, and we look forward to continually expanding on the information and resources available online.



Also available at Timberlane.net:

- [Administration Directory](#)
- [District-wide Calendar](#)
- [Public Notices](#)
- [School Board Agendas](#)
- [School Lunch Menus](#)
- [Evening Division Schedule](#)
- [Technology Information](#)
- [Bus Routes](#)
- [Employment Information and Applications](#)

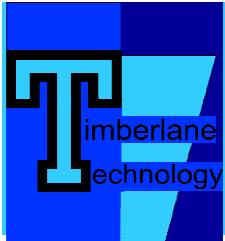
TRSD Receives Tandberg Equipment Donation

The Timberlane Regional School District recently received an equipment donation from Tandberg. The equipment received was a Tandberg Codec 2500 and a camera. The Codec 2500 is the master unit that establishes a videoconference connection for both video and audio over IP. It is the same model Codec that we currently have in each school. Sean Spires, Tandberg Account Manager for the New England area (and a resident of Atkinson), has been very impressed with the progress we have made with distance learning, and was instrumental in making this donation possible. This additional equipment will enable us to develop a "mobile" videoconference system, to supplement our existing distance learning lab resources.



TRSD Administrator and Staff Present at Technology Conference

John Holland, Christy Hublely and Betti Percival presented at the 21st annual Christa McAuliffe



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Technology Conference in Nashua on November 27th, 28th, & 29th 2007. Two sessions, titled “Fly the Friendly Skies of Timberlane”, were presented each day to share how TRSD is successfully implementing the Videoconferencing Technology through out the district.

Information was shared on how the district got started and how staff and students are using videoconferencing today to enhance student curriculum. John Holland shared with the participants, information on the important role school administration plays to support videoconference implementation and integration.

During each session, conference participants took part in videoconference sessions connecting with content providers such as COSI Science Center in Toledo Ohio, the Seacoast Science Center in Rye, NH, and the NASA Space Station in Florida. They were involved in an interactive videoconference with the Puppetry Center in Georgia where they learned about spiders and made a spider puppet. This was a good example for them to see how they could use videoconferencing providers with their students to help support their curriculum.

Participants not only got to see how videoconferencing is used with content providers but also how they can use videoconferencing to collaborate with other schools across the country. We connected with a 5th grade classroom in New Richmond, Ohio where they got a chance to ask these students questions about how they use videoconferencing and what they have learned with this technology.

Spam Filtering

Spam is unsolicited commercial email, the electronic equivalent of the junk mail that comes through your letterbox. Spam is an ever-increasing problem. The number of spam emails is increasing daily - studies show that over 72% of all current email is spam.

Added to this, spammers are becoming more sophisticated and are constantly managing to outsmart 'static' methods of fighting spam. Therefore we have chosen to use a "non-static" form of filtering

The anti-spam product that we use is GFI Mail Essentials. It is one of the best anti-spam packages available with a capture rate of over 90%. It has 60 plus awards and is used by over 70,000 customers including NASA, IBM, US Navy, Toyota and the European Central Bank. On 11/27/07 the high school mail server processed 12,022 email messages by midday. There were 10,992 messages placed in the Spam folders and 1,130 in the Inboxes. That is a rate of 91% of the email messages filtered out.

GFI Mail Essentials uses Bayesian filtering to achieve such a high spam detection rate. One of the best features of this filter is that it is a “learning” filter; it is constantly monitoring mail in and out of the building and learning from it. However this method depends on you, the users to train the filters.

As mail comes into the mail server, it is checked by the filters. Any mail it considers Spam is sent to the Spam folder in your Inbox. The rest of the mail is sent to the Inbox.

The Spam folder may be deleted at any time. It will be re-created by the filtering software when needed.

When you receive Spam in your Inbox you should notify the filtering software. Every time you do this the performance of the filtering will improve. If you just delete the messages, the effectiveness of the filter will not improve.

We will also be researching AntiSpam firewalls as a potential alternative to our current server software-based solution.

