



THE HUB

The Alabama Supercomputer Authority Newsletter

ASA SPOTLIGHT: CHILTON COUNTY SCHOOLS



L-R: Jason Griffin, Brandon Bartelmann, Kim Arrington, Zack Evetts and Nic Cardwell

Recently ASA's Andy McClure visited with the Chilton County Schools Technology Department and Chilton County Superintendent Jason Griffin. Kim Arrington is the Technology Director for Chilton County Schools and she has written the following article in regards to how Chilton County utilizes the services ASA provides.

The Chilton County School District is a rural system in central Alabama with twelve schools and one Career Tech Center. Our district is widespread with two elementary schools, two intermediate schools, two middle schools, two high schools and four K-12 schools. We have a staff of four: one Technology Coordinator, one Network Systems Administrator, and two technicians. Even with a limited staff, we manage over 20,000 devices including Chromebooks, laptops, desktops, printers, interactive boards, switches, routers, WLCs and access points and support approximately 7600 students and 850 staff.

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We also manage numerous software applications, many of which were added during COVID to assist students and teachers with remote learning and classroom management.

With a limited staff and funds, it would be hard for our district to operate without the partnership with ASA. They provide Internet access and WAN services for the entire district, and we participate in the AREN Consortium for the procurement of these E-rate eligible services. ASA is very helpful in evaluating our bandwidth and increasing it as needed. We appreciate their 24-hour/365 day maintenance and notifications of any issues that may arise.

Our district was one of the first districts to implement KnowBe4 security training and we purchased our own license in 2019. We are thankful that ASA provides this for all districts at no cost. We use KnowBe4 to train employees and perform phishing tests, and our organization's risk score has decreased tremendously since first implementing the program.

In addition, we take advantage of ASA's cybersecurity services at no charge. The external vulnerability scan reports with recommended actions and the Security Operations Center (SOC) support are extremely helpful so we can evaluate and resolve these issues. We also utilize the read-only access to the Palo Alto firewall to monitor network traffic.

We use Dell Avamar and Data Domain to run nightly backups of our entire virtual environment at the Central Office. To do this we utilize the WAN link to one of our schools where we replicate the nightly backup for redundancy.

Again, we are thankful for the partnership with ASA and the services they provide.

ASA would like to congratulate Kim Arrington on her upcoming retirement from Chilton County Schools. We wish you the best in your future adventures!



We hope you all have a great Summer! Our Tech Talks will resume in September 2022.