



The pilot "Teacher on TV" program is just the start of technological changes planned by the Farmington school district. Here, telecommunications coordinator Dean Cobb teaches a North Farmington class in the TV-10 studios, and Farmington

High and Harrison High students who are remote. Cobb talked via cable with all the students. The program is to be considered by the Farmington school board in February.

Schools to get better phones

By Casey Hane
staff writer

Before Farmington Public Schools moves high tech into the classroom, officials decided getting simple items, like push-button telephones, might be appropriate.

"We decided it was time we got some of these," said a half-joking deputy superintendent Michael Flanagan, holding up a push-button unit before the school board last week. "Before we get too high-tech anywhere else, we should take care of this first."

What's not funny, consultants say, is the district's current patchwork system; some lines can be transferred between buildings while others cannot. Still other buildings with a small number of lines give callers busy signals far too often.

This summer, the district will go through a lengthy education process for employees, as they install a Digital Centrex system through Michigan Bell. The system will allow them to upgrade phone hardware throughout the district. School trustees approved the purchase of \$327,477 for the system last week, after a study of several months by business department personnel, headed up by director Belal Duschinske.

MICHIGAN BELL Communications had the lowest system price, out-bidding SiemensPlus with \$461,540, IBM/Polin with \$590,559 and AT&T with \$860,328. A total of 18 vendors submitted proposals for the districtwide system, which will handle voice and data communications. It will also allow features including voice mail, which allows 24-hour message service, central informational phone numbers for snow days and special events, and other options.

The new system will put 10-12 phones in each elementary school, 20-25 in each middle school and 40-50 in each high school, according to Paul Anker, a consultant from Southfield-based Plante & Moran CPAs. He said the Centrex system

With the district's current patchwork system, some lines can be transferred between buildings while others cannot. Other buildings with a small number of lines frequently give callers busy signals.

will also allow for "unlimited data capabilities."

School trustee James Abernethy requested administrators talk with teachers and principals in the Southfield district before implementing a new system in Farmington.

WHILE VISITING the Southfield district, recently, Abernethy said he heard a lot of concerns about their new system which was implemented late last summer.

"It has some benefits, but there are some problems," he said. "I think we should find out what those are. I'm sure whatever the issues are, they can be worked out."

Flanagan said he believed the issues probably involved staff training, and getting employees accustomed to a different system.

Plans call for installing the Farmington system in late July and early August, phasing it in over one week.

Schools tap high-tech teaching

Continued from Page 1



Michael Flanagan schools to tap technology

Teachers will have to go through staff development programs to teach them to use the new tools, there might be union concerns. And an "ever-evolving" mixture of technologies and training will not allow everything to be used in every classroom immediately. He expects some resistance not only from some staff members, but from members of the community who believe using the new technologies is not necessary. There is even resistance within the

education community as a whole.

"There is tremendous resistance at the leadership level," he said. "They won't open their mind" to a blending of both traditional teaching and technology. "They believe what it really comes down to is a kid, a book and a teacher. We're not taking away from that."

"Computers are not the key — it's teaching," he added. "We always see a professional in the classroom. All the technology is not going to change the way we teach, but it will be an extra bag of tricks."

THERE IS also the question of how the district will pay for the new technologies.

Flanagan is optimistic that community-oriented companies, including cable networks, will work with the school district.

He also believes there will be a "direct, bottom line incentive" to industry to help in subsidizing these new methods.

"It will be because of a self-interest issue," he added. "Really, a patriotic issue."

33 make top 1,000 in math competition

Thirty-three students from Farmington's three public high schools finished in the top 1,000 of the 23,000 high school students who took part in Part I of the 30th annual Michigan Mathematics Prize Competition.

This was the largest number of students from Farmington ever to qualify.

They included: Ajay Arora, Carolyn Blason, Marc Bockrath, Jim Cannon, Bob Chen, Kelvin Chou, Eric Crawford, Joe Crow, Mike Ferrante, Liz Greenberg, Atul Gupta,

Jeff Haber, Scott Hawkins, Keith Kalecky, Adam Levine, Eric Maxon, Kathy McDonald, Tim McDina, Glenn Melli, Brad Moore, Mike Myers, Eric Priest, Paul Riddell, Josh Rintamaki, Todd Roper, Scott Seabolt, Joel Seamons, Scott Simpson, James Sung, Jeff Sung, Amy Thursman, Oren Traub and Yolanda Wu.

The top 100 qualifiers in the state will be honored at an awards program, to be held at Michigan State University in March.

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Preschool classes are offered

Beginning this week, Farmington Community School offers preschool classes similar to those at two early childhood centers in the Farmington district.

Classes will include the Mom/Tot Program for children 22 to 36 months, classes for children ages 3 to 5, and a Head Start program. Each class is staffed with a teacher and aide and has no more than 16 children.

The program features a developmental curriculum.

Opportunities abound for small children to explore the world of science in the Discovery Room, where hands-on lessons are planned about dinosaurs, pets, tracking, hibernation, space, chemistry, nature, magnetism and more.

Classes also offer chances for children to explore mathematics, language, music, art, role playing, and to develop social interaction skills. In addition, children will have daily access to preschool-oriented equipment in the school's gymnasium.

Class fees range from \$45 to \$257 for one-, two- or three-day class sessions. The Farmington Community School, formerly the Shiawassee Center, is at 30415 Shiawassee, midway between Middlebelt and Orchard Lake Road, one block north of Nine Mile.

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In contrast, aspirin would be a good choice of treatment. Inflammation is basic to all types of arthritis, and aspirin is the first drug to try to combat joint irritation. Your doctor would recommend liberal use of heat, rest, and regular activity, as these therapies have wide application to the treatment of joint disorders. Finally, your doctor would reassess your status frequently to catch clues that would clarify the diagnosis.

Treatment is indicated even if the diagnosis is unclear. Your doctor will move cautiously and likely see you frequently until the problem resolves, or its nature becomes evident.

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