

School district looks to future



- By Jake Mosbach jmosbach@clintonherald.com

CLINTON — Clinton School District Superintendent Deb Olson delivered her “State of the District” address Tuesday morning, highlighting the important role that technology will play in the district’s future.

Technology use has been a hot topic with the school board as of late, being noted as a major goal during this school year’s goal-planning session earlier in the fall. Tuesday, Olson gave audience members a glimpse in o the future of the district’s technology use.

“Fifty-eight percent of all 5-year-olds, if you give them a computer or give them a computer game and say ‘play this,’ they can do it without any assistance,” Olson said. “However, out of those same 5-year-olds, only 9 percent of them can tie their own shoes. That’s a sign of the times that we live in. So we need to prepare children for a world that we don’t necessarily know will look like.”

But just because the district plans to employ more, current technology doesn’t necessarily mean that will equate to student success. Olson gave the audience a statistic predicting that 90 percent of the total global population may have a “supercomputer” – a smartphone or tablet of some sort

– in their pocket by the year 2023. But these technologies becoming readily available isn't the end of the road.

Having students become technology literate is perhaps more important than the pieces of equipment themselves, Olson says.

“While we do have technology, that's just a piece of it,” Olson said. “It is not all of it. Just because I put a computer in front of you doesn't necessarily mean you're going to learn more, or you're going to become smarter. It's what you do with it that makes all the difference.”

Of course, the use of technology and the internet can be a bit treacherous or even dangerous at times. Olson and her district colleagues realize that.

So Olson assured audience members that district students will know that, with an increased use of technology, will come an increased importance of personal accountability.

“It is important that we integrate this into all of our children's lives, but being a digital citizen does come with responsibilities,” Olson said. “It's then also up to us to teach those types of responsibilities. Just because you can get on the internet doesn't mean that's it. There are responsibilities that come with using it as well.”