



Mooresville Technology Plan Puts More Devices in Students' Hands

The Mooresville Schools 2013-2014 Technology Plan is being designed to put the more technology and more technology options in students' hands, with all students in grades 5-12 having a laptop for educational use and all teachers having more presentation options through Apple TV.

Chief Learning Officer Scott Kern and Chief Technology Officer Bob Sendelbach have been working on a plan which allows take-home laptops for more than 2200 students in grades 7-12, one-to-one classroom laptops for the more than 750 students in grades 5 and 6, and more laptops and tablets available for students in grades K-4.



"We don't want technology to sit on a shelf," said Sendelbach. "We want technology in the hands of as many students as possible."

The new plan also utilizes a new device for grades 7-12. Students will all receive a Chromebook (a laptop preloaded with Google products), which has many features designed for daily school use as well as travel to and from school. The Chromebooks will include a 7-hour battery life and a durable travel case as well as a larger screen and faster start-up and operating speed than previous student laptops. The laptops will be part of the student book rental program and families which qualify for free or reduced lunch programs will pay reduced or no cost to rent the device for the school year.

"Further integrating the use of laptops and tablets into the daily curriculum helps students have resources at their fingertips and better understand how the technology becomes a tool for learning," said Kern. "Our students are natives to the world of technology. They have never lived without technology and it will be part of every one of their futures, no matter what career or education goals they have. We want them to learn how to use it well and how to use it wisely."

Teachers in all grades will have access to AppleTV beginning this fall as well. The devices allow teachers as well as students giving presentations to use iPads to show lessons and information on screen. All classrooms already have projectors for computers but this will allow more options to show teaching apps and videos.

Filtered and monitored wireless service within the school buildings is available. All students will have online storage for their work using Google Docs, which also allows students to share files for group work and for turning in assignments through the My Big Campus program, an online bulletin board for classroom assignments. This allows students to complete and turn in work wherever they are. Students who do not have internet access at home can pull their assignments onto their laptop for completing after school and files will automatically sync with their online Google Drive when the laptop is turned on at school.

Parents of students in grades 7-12 will have the option to purchase insurance coverage for the time their student use the school-owned laptop. Additional details of the program for these students will come to parents as part of their student's Back to School and book rental information.

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