



## Mooreville Consolidated School Corporation

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# *Striking the Balance:*

## **Mooreville Plan Integrates Devices with Internet Service and Face-to-Face Learning**

MOORESVILLE, IN – Only in the second year into the district goal of having computer or device in the hands of every student, Mooreville Schools are already more than doubling last year’s pace but doing so with a twist many schools haven’t offered.



Each netbook offered to students in grades 7-10 includes a built-in wireless air card, makes it possible for students to access the school district network from their laptop even without home Internet access. This fall, students in grades 7-10 will receive take-home devices while all 6<sup>th</sup> grade students will each have their own in-class devices. All students in grades 11-12 are encouraged to bring and utilize their own devices to enhance learning. Last year, the district provided netbook computers to all students in grades 8 and 9. The initial plan took a new twist with a survey of high school students, which found that only 25 percent had high speed Internet access at home.

“Having the computer alone doesn’t meet our students’ learning needs or our educational goals,” said Bob Sendelbach, Mooreville’s chief technology officer. “The air card gives our students the ability to research a topic, access online books and programs, complete an assignment, and turn it in to their teacher whenever and wherever – significantly expanding learning opportunities.”

In addition, all middle and high school students have access to Mooreville’s information on My Big Campus, an area where students and teachers can post lessons, link to educational videos or other content, and turn in lessons. Each student and teacher has their own account in the monitored and protected site with a setup similar to many social media sites. The merging of online learning with classroom instruction has proven popular with students.

“We are endeavoring to provide our students the winning combination of teacher instruction and virtual learning opportunities,” said Superintendent Brad Lindsay. “Our students receive purposeful instruction with their teachers but assignments can include video clips, online content, etc. and then can be turned in electronically.”

The combination of classroom and online instruction seems to be working, as Mooresville's ISTEP scores continue to beat state averages. In contrast, Indiana's largest cyber schools, Indiana Connections Academy and Hoosier Academies, both fall short of Indiana average ISTEP scores.

"The use of technology is essential in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century," said Mooresville's Chief Learning Officer Scott Kern. "It is a tool that places the student at the very center of their educational experience and opens them up to whole new world of learning opportunities. The key is to look at the data and focus on what works. Technology, when used appropriately, enhances student learning and gives teachers an opportunity to work with students individually and in smaller groups."

"This gives students an advantage as they learn and compete in our global society," said Lindsay. "Our teachers are our most valuable asset in helping our students learn. This is a tool and opportunity to equip both our teachers and our students as they partner to maximize learning. We believe Mooresville has the right combination of the best online learning has to offer without losing the human interaction."

This access will allow students to use the Internet but the content they can see will be filtered through the school district server. Students will also be able to access their files which are stored on the school's network. Students may take the laptops home but must bring the laptop to school, fully charged, each day.

"We're extremely excited to have found a partnership which will give our students access to our school's network through their laptops," said Sendelbach. The netbooks each have a built-in aircard through Verizon Wireless.

The program is funded in part through various technology grants. For grades receiving netbooks, a fee is assessed with book rental book rental fee. Students who have their own laptop may use it at school and have the technology fee waived, but are responsible for keeping their own computers in working order. A technology helpdesk is available for students who have problems with school-issued laptops. As in the past, all students will be required to abide by the school district's Acceptable Use Policy, which covers issues regarding appropriate use of school computers and the Internet.

### **More Technology Advances At Mooresville**

The technology department is also working on a consistent virtual desktop for students and staff members, so they will see the same icons, programs, and files regardless of the device, network, or operating system they use. Other recent technology upgrades at Mooresville include:

- Expanding Wi-Fi availability to all school buildings
- Installing projectors into all classrooms this summer
- Utilizing laptops for all teacher computers
- Upgrading the school website



Questions regarding the computers can be directed to the middle school (831-9208) or high school office (831-9203).

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