

**DEPARTMENT OF TECHNOLOGY AND MEDIA SERVICES
Wilmette Public Schools**

INFORMATION ITEM

Date: September 29, 2014

To: Raymond E. Lechner, Ph.D.
Superintendent of Schools

From: Adam Denenberg
Director of Technology and Media Services

Subject: 1:1 Program Update

District Deployment

To ensure a smooth start to the school year a significant amount of preparation was necessary. The technology infrastructure was improved by increasing Internet bandwidth throughout the District and increased wireless coverage and capacity at Highcrest and Wilmette Junior High. The student iPads were prepared over the summer. Each iPad was entered into an inventory database, enrolled into a management system, labeled with a student name and technology asset tag (ID), and placed in the requested case.

On Friday August 29th the first deployment was conducted with two sixth grade homerooms at Highcrest. The District technology team and teachers and administrators from both Highcrest and Wilmette Junior High participated. After Labor Day on September 2nd, the rest of the iPad distribution began. At Highcrest all iPads were deployed on September 2nd. Throughout the day HMS and WJHS technology teachers, administrators, and the Director of Technology led student orientation programs with support from the technology team. At Wilmette Junior High, students received their iPads throughout the week through a rotation schedule. The technology teacher with support from junior high staff and the District technology team led the junior high orientation. By the end of the day on September 5th all students in the 1:1 program had received their iPads.

The following are statistics on the 1:1 program:

- 902 iPads distributed to students in 1 week
- 100% student participation in the 1:1 Program
- 464 “rent to own” iPads
- 406 “rent only” iPads
- 32 “bring your own” iPads
- 266 students enrolled in the optional insurance program
- 229 Targus keyboard cases
- 631 Otterbox protective cases
- 10 times more District Internet bandwidth

Parent Preparation

On April 30th two informational meetings were held for parents. At these meetings administrators gathered valuable parent feedback, addressed questions, and presented on the following topics:

- District history and research on 1:1 learning
- Community Review Committee research and the 1:1 learning program goals
- Learning management system (Schoology) for student organization, online assignments, student collaboration, and student/parent/and teacher communication
- Three purchase options for iPads, “rent to own,” “rent only,” “bring your own”
- Two iPad case options, a keyboard case and a protective Otterbox case.

In the beginning of August, parents selected a fee option and a case for their child’s iPad. Parents and 1:1 students were also required to read an online acceptable use agreement and watch an orientation video. In addition, parents were provided an opportunity to upgrade the iPad storage capacity and to enroll in the District’s iPad Theft Loss Insurance plan. Finally, all parents were required to create an Apple ID for their children.

During sixth and seventh grade curriculum night parents received information on Schoology from grade level administrators and login information and instructions from teachers. For the remainder of the school year parent information and instructions will be posted online on the District 1:1 learning page and communications will continue through classroom teachers, grade level assistants, and through iPad Monday emails. At the end of the year a 1:1 learning iPad parent survey will be administered.

Teacher Preparation

Staff development on the 1:1 program has been ongoing. Last year essential courses were identified for all sixth-eighth grade teachers. These courses were offered through a variety of avenues including faculty meetings, early release days, lunch and learn sessions, technology drop-ins, and Academy 39 classes. Topics included Basic Skills and Troubleshooting, Using the Core iPad Apps, Managing iPad

Implementation, Technology Integration Ideas, First Days of Schools in a 1:1 Program, and Using Schoology. Over the summer these essential courses continued and some new classes were added including iBook Author for creating eBooks, Schoology Advanced Topics, and Apple's Core iPad Apps. During new teacher orientation this summer sixth-eighth grade staff also received training and a District iPad. On opening days this year sixth and seventh grade teachers had time reserved for 1:1 collaboration and planning as well more Schoology instruction. Throughout the year as part of the District's mentoring program new teachers will receive more iPad training. A staff development plan is also in place for this year with ongoing training in the essential courses, continuation of the Highcrest and Wilmette Junior High steering committees, and access to the online sharing sites for 1:1 staff. Finally, a teacher survey will be administered at the end of the year to gauge teacher preparation and support for the 1:1 learning program.

Student Support

Students received extra assistance from the District technology staff during the first few weeks of school to make sure students were able to login to their accounts and download their apps. In addition, the before school iPad support program has been available to all students at Highcrest and Wilmette Junior High. Finally, support has also been provided through the hmsipad@wilmette39.org and wjhsipad@wilmette39.org email addresses.

Next Steps

Overall the deployment of the iPads was a successful process. Changes and improvements are already being outlined to help streamline the process for students, parents, and staff next year. One lesson learned was to spread the deployment out over more days at Highcrest next year. Another adjustment for future deployments will be to move the student Schoology and core app training to a second day of orientation instead of during the first few weeks of school.

Later this year 1:1 learning reports will provide updates on the strategic plan including measures for home/school communication, parent satisfaction in this year's 1:1 learning program, and data on student iPad support. While a plan is in place for the rollout to eighth grade next year, the District will need to consider timing for a fifth grade rollout, as well as a review of the District technology budget and student fees.

**Recommended for presentation
To the Board of Education**



Raymond E. Lechner, Ph.D., Superintendent