

Technology Report

October 2017

There have been some big technology updates this fall that you should be aware of. To be ready for day one and not hamper teacher/student readiness for the start of academics, the technology department made site visits to all schools the week before students arrived. During those visits we replaced some network hardware, delivered new devices for staff & students, and provided some hands on training for teachers. Details of the new student devices are below:

Laptop Refresh

We have refreshed the laptops for high school students. Each student in “grades” 9-12 received a new MacBook Air. The laptops they had been using were put into circulation to increase the number of available middle school laptops. Any extra laptops will be used as spares in the event of breakage, spares for extra students who may enroll, and as laptops for the distance tutoring program. Each year as seniors graduate those laptops will roll into the pool of middle school devices and help to refresh that collection of computers.

K-5 iPad 1:1

We purchased iPads for every student K - 5, and 13” iPad Pros for each elementary teacher. We are also going to purchase iPad Pros for each middle/high school teacher who has an interest and received training from the technology department this fall. To go along with the iPads we purchased and installed Apple TVs in elementary classrooms. Apple TV is a small computer like device that, among other things, allows students and staff to wireless share their screens with the projector. This is great for teachers demonstrating concepts for students, but is also a great tool for students to share their work with the class.

PowerSchool

Our implementation of PowerSchool is ongoing. This is a very robust piece of software that can keep track of a lot of data for us. All staff and students are in the system as are the district standards. Teachers use this tool to keep track of student attendance as well as student progress through the levels and standards. We are slowly expanding the scope of how we will use this tool (tracking discipline and attendance issues; performance on local, state and national assessments; storing records such as Indian ED 506 forms, etc.)