

**School Board Meeting/Workshop:**

**August 9, 2010**

**Subject: BCMS Student Handbook Change/Technology use update**

**Presenter:**

**Julie Swaggert**

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**SUGGESTED SCHOOL BOARD ACTION:**

We will request approval of the BCMS handbook at the August Board meeting. There is a change in wording concerning individual technology tools in the classroom. Also we want to update the School Board on the status of our research and work in regard to student purchase and use of ipod touch devices in the classroom.

**DESCRIPTION:**

At the June Board Workshop, Josh Swanson and I presented our concepts, research and plan for implementing a pilot project for 7<sup>th</sup> grade students to use ipod touch devices in the classroom. As the summer has progressed, we have realized that there are too many pieces of this project currently in the concept stage and we are **not ready** for implementation of a pilot ipod touch project for the start of the 2010-11 school year. We met with a group of 15 staff members in July to discuss the research, survey data, staff development and financial issues related to the ipod touch project. As a group, BCMS staff is committed to increasing student use of technology tools in the classroom to enhance instruction and student engagement. Many of our staff has ipod touches and we have ordered several ipod touches for teachers to use within their departments. We are encouraging students to bring and use their personal technology devices but not mandating that they do so. Currently, 30% of our students already own ipod touches. These devices brought and used at school, greatly increases our student access to technology and related learning opportunities. Using electronic tools for organization, as a calculator, to do internet research and to access learning web sites and textbooks are examples of classroom technology tool applications that students can use. We hope to launch the BHM Apple on-line store in the near future.

We will continue to examine and research how best to use technology tools for BCMS students and will involve staff, parents and students in this process. We plan to have a more clear vision and implementation plan in place by the middle of the 2010-11 school year.

**ATTACHMENT(S):**

Student Handbook change for 2010-11

● **PHONES AND IPODS IN SCHOOL**

Cellular phones and iPods **are** allowed in the classroom setting or during the school day from 7:45 am – 2:20 pm **with approval of a** teacher for instructional reasons. If you choose to bring a cell phone or iPod to school, the school is not responsible for loss or theft. Students using electronic equipment during the day without teacher permission **may** lose possession of the item and parents may be asked to pick **the item** up in the front office. If students wish to contact a parent or guardian during the school day, phones are available for you in the front office.

**Student technology use update: (from the Fall 2011 newsletter to parents)**

As a school, we continue to explore how to best use technology tools to increase learning opportunities and experiences for our students. We surveyed students and parents this spring and early summer concerning technology tools and the possibility of using ipod touches or a similar device as a tool for students. Students reported that 96% of them have a computer and 93% have internet access at home. In addition, 30% of our students said they already own an ipod touch. Parents of in-coming 7<sup>th</sup> graders were surveyed and expressed interest, excitement but also concern and had questions concerning how ipod technology would be used in and out of the classroom. At this time we are not implementing or piloting any specific technology initiative to start the school year. Students are allowed to bring in electronic handheld devices that may be used in the classroom setting for various lessons. (ex. Prime Time to help with organization, math calculator, internet research) . We will be moving toward more implementation of electronic technology tools to improve student learning as we continue to research and determine what "best fits" BCMS students.