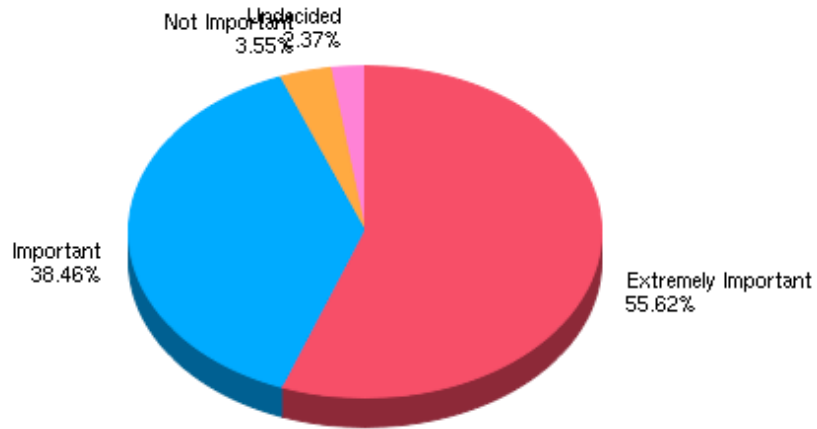


Overview

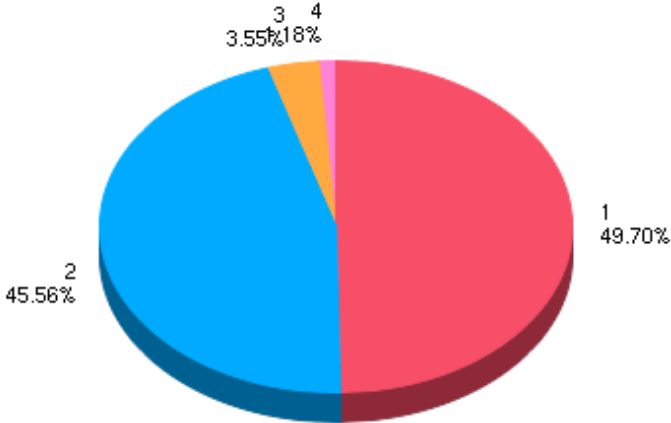
June 11, 2010

1. Do you feel it is important for your Middle School student to learn how to use technology appropriately and responsibly (digital citizenship)?



Item	Count	Percent %
Extremely Important	94	55.62%
Important	65	38.46%
Not Important	6	3.55%
Undecided	4	2.37%

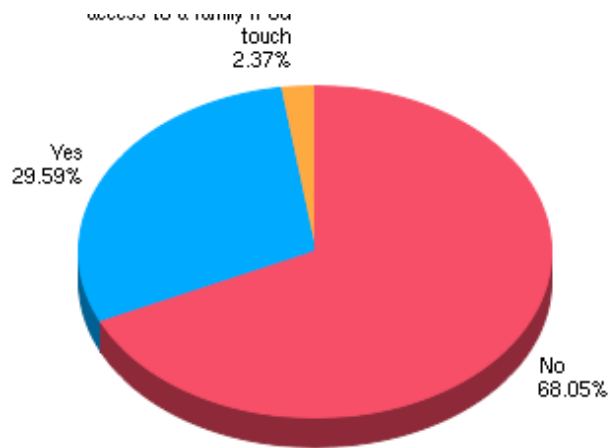
2. Do you feel that integrating technology into your child's education is important?



Item	Count	Percent %
1	84	49.70%
2	77	45.56%
3	6	3.55%
4	2	1.18%

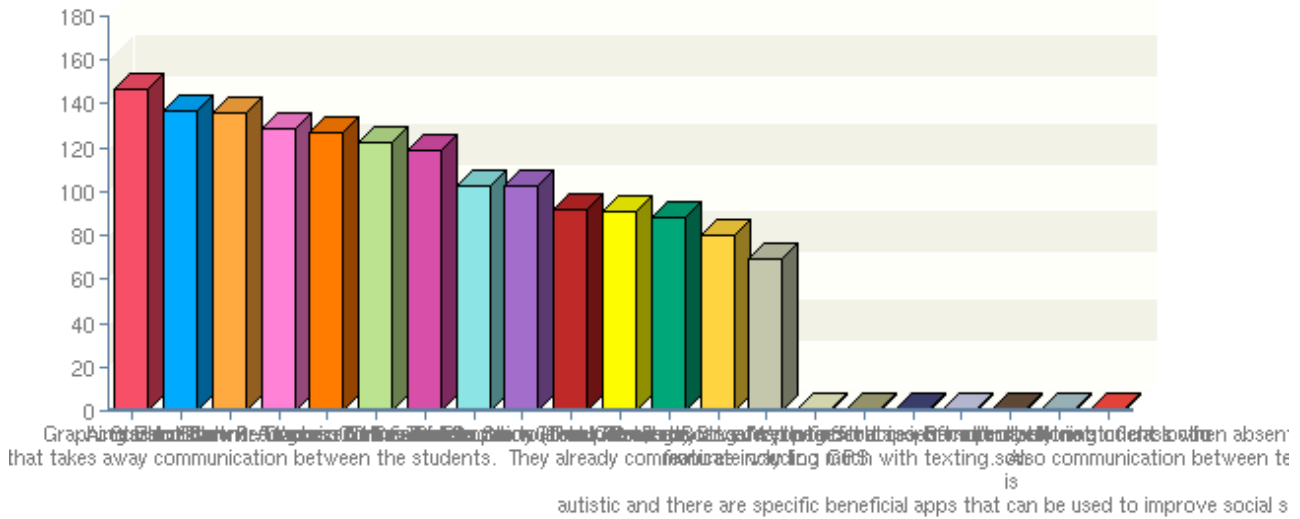
Average: 1.56

3. Does your child currently own an iPod touch?



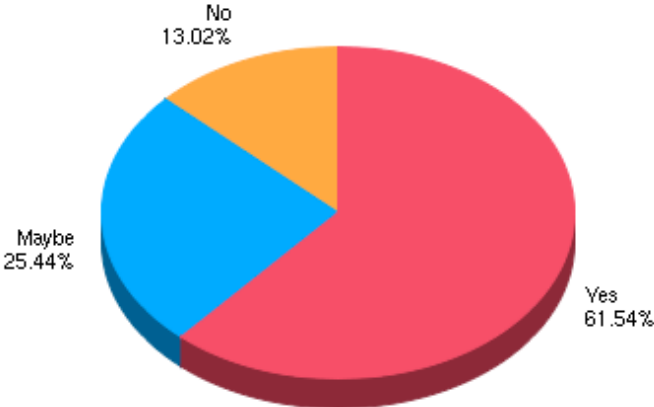
Item	Count	Percent %
No	115	68.05%
Yes	50	29.59%
My child would have access to a family iPod touch	4	2.37%

4. Here are a few of the tools that an iPod touch provides. Check any of the following technology tools that you feel would be useful or important to your child's education at BCMS.



Item	Count	Percent %
Graphing Calculator	147	91.88%
Homework	137	85.63%
Student Planner/Organizer	136	85.00%
Access to Class Resources and Documents	129	80.63%
Student-Teacher Communication	127	79.38%
Lesson Review Videos	122	76.25%
Online Text Books	119	74.38%
Access to Infinite Campus to Check Grades	103	64.38%
Online Collaboration (Group Projects)	103	64.38%
Study Island Access	92	57.50%
Internet Access	91	56.88%
Reading Books	88	55.00%
Classroom Blogs/Webpages	80	50.00%
Map features including GPS	69	43.13%
Great idea - but, can everyone afford an ipod - probably not.	1	0.63%
I would be against any thing that takes away communication between the students. They already communicate way too much with texting. Also communication between teacher and student is very important and should not be in the form of email.	1	0.63%
Internet access if controlled	1	0.63%
locator to find lost ipods and/or assist in student locatio	1	0.63%
my son is autistic and there are specific beneficial apps that can be used to improve social skills. Fabulous idea!!	1	0.63%
None	1	0.63%
Remote monitoring of class when absent	1	0.63%

5. The graphing calculator is currently \$125 at local stores. The iPod touch will cost between \$175 and \$195, serves all of the calculator functions and provides access to the tools described above. Would you support purchasing the more expensive device for your child to increase access to technology based tools in their education?



Item	Count	Percent %
Yes	104	61.54%
Maybe	43	25.44%
No	22	13.02%

Appendix 2: Please provide us with other constructive comments or feedback:

Open Text Responses:

I think this is an absolutely AWESOME idea and I support it fully!

Information about how to purchase apps for the graphing calculator would be helpful. My children already each own a touch so if we could buy the graphing calculator app over the summer that would be helpful.

Thanks,

Sheri

I think that if you worked with an apple store - you may be able to get a discount on large purchases.

While technology developments often cause headaches for school administration with regards to control and approved usage, it also needs to be embraced. Our children should be allowed access to all of the latest technological advances in education in order to maintain this country's status as an education leader.

Will the iPod touch be something they can then use in 8th grade and up. Does the high school use this for their daily classroom activities??

She already has one, however, I don't let her bring it to school because it was so expensive and I don't need it stolen. I foresee a problem in that area.

Would be very helpful to have a discount program for this if ordering in bulk through Apple. I have 2 students who would need to use this so this would be expensive.

We do not have a computer or on-line access at home. At this point, being on-line at home is not affordable to our family and a graphing calculator can be purchased used, not costing \$125. I feel if the school feels it necessary to have this technology available to the kids, they should provide it at the schools expense. Othewise, students will be put at an unfair disadvantage in classes.

It's hard to understand how this purchase is mandated when appx 45% of students are free and reduced at several elementary schools is our district. Those students will soon be at BCMS and most likely have siblings at BCMS now. School supplies are expensive enough without the added expense of this device. While we support it, we struggle with making it mandtory. FYI -- we are not in a position to qualify for financial assistance, we are just looking at the entire picture. Hope this feedback helps.

If some 7th grade teams are using the I-Pod touch, then ALL the teams should. I don't want my child to feel left out. I heard you may just have one 7th grade team use them. I think that would be very unfair and cause unnecessary friction between teams. Please do all or no 7th grade teams.

My only concern would be the cost, but for \$50 or so more dollars, it would be a very useful tool.

I would love for my child to have access to this technology. I think it would be hugely beneficial. It is the new way of education. However, the cost would be very prohibitive to our family at this time. A graphing calculator could be passed down from an older sibling.

Investing in an iPod touch will be more beneficial to our children. There more features/options available than investing in a graphing calculator that has limited use.

Great idea - something very important to consider - you need to coach parents on purchasing extra software to block pornography (for home use) or inappropriate web-content. Currently the ipod touch provides open access to the internet. My child has that technology installed but if all other kids do not, it's too simple for them to show and share what another kid may have access too that my child may not.

People can also get a reconditioned ipod touches on line. We just purchased one for our daughter. that was \$159.00 delivered. I just worry about it getting stolen and having the cost of replacing it.

I would even purchase one of the higher gig ones. The school should look into discounts at each ipod touch level.

I think this is an excellent idea and a great use of technology. In the work place, technology is forever changing and so many people aren't exposed to the great organization and learning capabilities of technology.

Being proficient in using this technology is key for the way the world works now and will be the basis for many new applications in the near future.

I see the implementation of using this and other technologies a must!

You mention only the cost of the device.

You have not included any information about an internet service plan.

Is this going to be provided at the school?

If so, the internet access will be of little benefit for the children outside of school unless their home has wireless internet available. It seems like there are still a lot of variables to be considered or disclosed in order to make any form of comprehensive decision at this stage.

With the economy the way that it is there are families such as ours that may not be able to afford the ipod touch, if there were a discount or help to purchase the ipod touch it would be a more favorable idea. I would love to see this technology in the classrooms.

Open Text Responses:

We currently have an iPod Touch, but it is a few years old. Please communicate clearly if the older models will be able to be used. Also, will the apps cost more?

The cost is going to be a road block for a lot of families including ours.

I really would like to see the iPod as part of my child's education. It would be helpful to families to know for certain that this would be the plan so it's easier to work it into the family budget. I guess I didn't realize he would be needing a calculator, so thanks for the information. I would much rather spend the \$ on a device that has more options that I know he would use.

I support a technology course that exposes middle school aged children to mobile technology and appropriate use, once they have mastered the core curriculum. I do not support leveraging a multifunction mobile device to deliver the core curriculum. Doing so requires the school, staff, and students to master the mobile technology before everything else.

I understand the argument that an iPod touch is just a small amount more than a graphing calculator from a student's perspective. From a school's perspective though, the cost of delivering rich content to mobile devices is going to far exceed any cost savings you're envisioning. In the end, you will be spending more per student with no resulting gain in student performance on core curriculum. I'm explaining that to you as someone who has been actively involved in technology since the days of the TRS80 and Apple II, and who makes their living implementing information technology.

Despite my answering that having my student learn appropriate and responsible use of technology is important, I am not sure that it is BCMS's job to do that. My gut reaction is to cringe thinking this will be one more technology battle. I am frequently battling with my child to not be online, etc anymore than necessary. Giving him/her another reason to be "plugged in" and to have to battle appropriate use of such technology ... not something I would be looking forward to. Having this part of the school day would just be one more battle for the teachers. Students will find ways to push any boundary given and make excuses when caught breaching those boundaries. It would be too tempting for many students to be playing others "apps" under the guise of using their calculator, etc I feel kids are already "plugged in" enough throughout their day. 7th graders are still quite young to be given that responsibility/privilege. Would want to know if not having their graphing calculators is an issue when they move forward in Math classes. Also, know that graphing calculators get lost/stolen, can only imagine that would be an even bigger issue with ipods. My child has spent a significant amount of money on apps and songs that he/she would be out if ipod was stolen. As it is now with ipods not required in school, it is my child's risk/decision to bring to school or not. If ipods are required, it's not his choice/risk to be taken, but ipod could still end up lost, stolen, etc Also could foresee issues with making sure ipod is charged and ready for school. What would happen if students ipod need to be charged during class? Batteries in calculator can last all year. Guess I feel like I would like my child to learn math during Math and technology during Technology at this age.

I would be against any thing that takes away communication between the students. They already communicate way too much with texting. Also communication between teacher and student is very important and should not be in the form of email.

I would also be concerned about the device to bully the way that cell phones have been used.

It is just a very expensive tool for school, how do we ensure it won't get stolen?

I know there are a lot of advantages to having one, but with the economy the way it is how feasible is it?

Is there a way for the district to get a discount on them if they are bought in bulk? If they could be more in the \$150 to \$175 range it would be better. My daughter is saving her own money to buy one...when will we know when the decision is made?

I think this is a great thing. Technology is a reality of our children's future. I believe it is best to help them learn how to best use technology in their lives early on.

While technology is important, my personal feeling and experience is that children exposed to other distractions become trapped in a technology world that takes away some of their ability to think on their own. Later in life there will be other opportunities to have access to these tools at a more mature age. There are simply too many distractions (entertainment) with these devices and I'm not in favor of supplying them at such a young age. There are other sources in a more controllable environment where students can have on-line access to the things that they need. They can learn about the responsibilities and so on without owning one.

I paid less for the calculator last year 85.00

the cost is a the thing for me I am a single parent with no job. And my other kids want the ipod touch also ,if i am telling them no i don,t have the money for a ipod how can i do this.

I think your focus is truly on the students here. They are the ones who, in 2010, indeed need to meet technology challenges coming in the near future. The iPod touch would just be one of many helpful tools, that students could utilize for online research and classroom assignments- at BCMS. One question though:

Do you have WiFi access there?

Just a thought- and good luck on this.

-Randy Griffith

This is a fabulous idea! I do feel that you will need to address the ability for students to download the texting applications that are usually free for a trial period. You may end up having issues with students using the ipods during class time for social reasons. Also, would you be able to effectively monitor kids using facebook or emails or even going to inappropriate websites during school hours. Just some things to think about.

Open Text Responses:

It is a good idea. Technology is a reality in the workplace and will be available to help them. The need to see the practical uses of this technology beyond the social and games.

would there be payment options- would the school be purchasing them in bulk for us to purchase from the school or would we be responsible to purchase on our own....

It would be great to know as soon as possible if this will be happening to have additional time for families to budget for a larger purchase

This sounds like it would also be a helpful tool when a child is absent or on a vacation.

would at least like to be able to use the i pod instead of buying a graphing calculator if we already have an i pod , Cant it be an optional choice?

That will depend on how it will be monitor the used of the iPod at school, second depending on the economic situation of the family at the time of a descicion, if today were the day we will have to pass the offer, which is good, but we will see when the time comes.

Please inform us about the locks that will be put in placed at school to safeguard our kids of unwanted online content.

Will they be mandatory? If so, what will you do for students whose parents are unable to afford one or are unwilling to buy one? - Many students in my class do not have even glue, scissors, or paper from home. They wouldn't have anything unless the school provided it, and these are supplies that cost about \$5 at Walmart.

If you move ahead with this plan, I hope you will plan on extensive communication with parents about how they are to be integrated into the curriculum - much more than just saying they will replace the graphing calculator! You will also need to clearly and thoroughly explain everything to students.

I would support this program only if ALL students had access to iPod, regardless of family's ability to pay for it.

Do we really want a school filled with students and Ipod touches? It's hard enough keeping them on task with texting and cell phones. Is this going to make it all that much harder to control?

Currently it would be too much of an expense for us.

I am just a little concerned about what a child should do if there iPod freezes durning school. What about keeping the iPods charged?

We have computers at home. I think that having internet access in the schools will just brig more headaches. What about the kids who can't afford an ipod touch? This is just going to add more cost to a district who is already in financial distress. Kids will be stealing these and they will being used in inappropriate ways!

Awesome idea -- great!

I don't think a 12 year needs complete access to unlimited technology and internet so the idea is only somewhat appealing if I as a parent am able to turn on parental controls on the device.

This is luxury item my kid needs to earn by doing chores and getting good grades. Not something that should be required by a school. All it will be is another distraction for kids at school and at home and another expense for parents.

We have all the internet access needed at home on our computer to get online help.

It will be next to impossible to monitor these things at school. Look at the number of kids posting garbage on facebook during the school day.

If it required i will refuse to get it unless the school picks up at least half the costs.

we are a family of 9 kids do you see where providing a 195.00 i pod touch might be a little difficult??? especially if I end up having 2 middle schoolers at the time. thanks

Many Parents have already purchased the graphing calculator, and now 877 wants parents to pay another \$200.00 for an iPod touch. Everything posted in Item 4: about what the iPod touch provides is currently available via internet access either at school, home, or the public library. My daughter was in the 6th grade advanced math for the 2009/2010 year. My understanding is that the curriculum was a test. My opinion is that the "test" was poor. I found it very frustrating attempting to help my daughter with math homework when she had no background information on the assignments and there was no place to learn some of the abstract concepts.... 877 should re-evaluate that ciriculum and find one which will better serve the students. Dump the iPod and let's get back to teaching.....

I have twin boys. Would they use the ipod touch in the classroom or only at home?

Could they share one or do they need their own? Could I get some assistance if I have to buy more than one?

Will the children have to purchase anything more for high school?

i have not purchased a graphing calculator for any of my kids as I can not afford it. :(

I would be interested in help from the district...I think anything above \$50 is too much to spend on any electronic devise.. calculator or not!

Open Text Responses:

I understand the positive programs that the iPod touch would provide for the student's. I am concerned though that the iPod would also provide a distraction that teacher's cannot control. I currently have students who have iPod touches who say they are using them for homework but they have been found listening to music and not paying attention to the lecture.

Also, I am concerned about internet access. It is impossible to monitor all students at all times. This could become an issue with students having access to sites in which they should not be.

My final comment is that this is a costly item especially if it is stolen. With the graphing calculator, not many people actually want them. An iPod touch is a highly desirable item.

Our oldest son works as an Information Technology Specialist in the military. He would not recommend getting these due to his expertise in the field. He said the screen goes out too often and is easily hacked into. We also have a graphing calculator from older siblings. I would do real good research on this matter before implementing it into the schools.

I like the idea for the kids because it allows them to do many things such as, organize, homework, access to teachers and homework help with one device. My only concern is they need to know it is for school purposes, and not a toy.

I think it is a great idea if used to the full advantage. The extra cost does concern me some (not a lot).

Since I already have a graphing calculator and do not feel my student is responsible enough to keep track of such an expensive item, I would not support a mandatory purchase like the iPod touch.

Will the ipod touch continue to be used at the high school level?

As I believe it is important to teach our children technology (use of computers) I don't like the idea of using equipment that allows another avenue for our children to access the internet without supervision of parents. I monitor the use of the computer at home and go on websites with my children as there is so much garbage out there for them to accidentally, or purposely, see. My children don't have cell phones, i-pod touch because I think they are too young. What ever happened to growing up reading books from the library or writing with pens and pencils. I understand our children need to progress with society but not at middle school. They are growing up too fast as it is and will do just fine without using i-pod's, etc. at school. My daughter would say differently but she is growing up just fine without a cell phone, texting, facebook. Also, most of us are on a fixed income and purchasing an i-pod is not realistic. Why have another reason for some students to not fit in because their parents either don't want their children to have one or simply cant afford one.

IT SEEMS LIKE A GOOD IDEA TO MOVE FORWARD IN THIS DAY AND AGE TECHNOLOGY. I WOULD HOPE THE \$200 PRICE COULD BE REDUCED SOMEHOW. WE PURCHASED THE GRAPHING CALCULATOR FOR OUR DAUGHTER 8 YEARS AGO AND SHE STILL USES IT IN HER SECOND YEAR OF COLLEGE..... I WOULD HOPE THE IPOD COULD STAND UP TO THAT. WOULD ALSO LIKE TO SEE REDUCTION IN PRICE SINCE I HAVE TWINS AND WOULD WANT THEM TO HAVE TWO FOR THEIR OWN RESPONSIBILITIES.

I would be interested in hearing more about purchasing at a discounted price.

I think it is a great idea, however I think the cost should be discounted some how so it is more in line of the \$125.00 that the cost of graphing calculator. Also please be aware that the internet connection can be hard to get in the country we only have access to dial up connections, no provider offers anykind of Wi-Fi capabilities, we have no cable, or offers with our telephone service that provide Wi-Fi. Also I hope you can make a decision soon on this so we know what we need to buy and how much money we need to put in the budget. Again Thank you, hope this idea flies.

Great Idea!

Would also be helpful at the high school level

I can see how this would be helpful and even educational. I definitely think it would be more beneficial in the long run compared to the graphing calculator.

My family is in the 66% that does not own an iPod--because of the cost.

I think this is ridiculous for middle school, they can use a graphing calculator that most family's already have and can get it for around \$100. I work full time and so does my husband but there is no reason that I should have to purchase a \$200 ipod. A lot of the information you want to access can be accessed by a computer. I might buy one if the school paid for half of it. However, if you want students to have access to all the tools listed above then you might as well get rid of half of the educators and they can attend school online just like you can do at Colleges, and have no people interaction. If that's the case why wouldn't I just enroll my kids in High School to MN virtual high school online.com?

School should pay for it.

I really feel that by incorporating the ipod touch, something the kids are already in love with, as a learning tool would not only be exciting for the kids. but I think they would be some much more excited to do school work and stay organized!

I have to fundamentally disagree with this initiative, as this will undoubtedly lead to some sort of "right to technology" putting the tax payer on the hook to ensure fairness to all.

Open Text Responses:

I feel that this would be easily misused and then what will happen? Will their ipod be taken away? If so, then how will they complete their homework, would I have to go out and buy a graphing calculator on top of the expense of the ipod? Also, is there a monthly charge to having the ipod? If so, it would end up being very expensive and for myself, I could not afford to have the extra charges and would not qualify to get it purchased for us or help with it. How would it be monitored as to when they can use it and when they don't and what they can and cannot look at or download? Is there any way to restrict their use on it? All the features on it are great, I just see more issues that good with it.

"use technology appropriately and responsibly" makes me wonder who gets to decide what becomes appropriate for my child. What I think is appropriate could be very different from what the "public school system" thinks is appropriate. I see the importance of teaching basic "digital citizenship", ie. appropriate locations/time to talk and text.

Also keeping in mind technology changes so fast. Think back to when we were in middle school and the, now, obsolete technology we learned. Maybe jumping on the "tehcology bandwagon" is not always necessary. (Calculaters are still around and still usable - that DOS system we had to learn, well not so much)

Could students use an iPad instead of the iPod touch?

This is putting too much technology and potential dangers in our students hands. I do not support our children having this device. Our children currently have very limited access to the internet, we do not want to expand the access points. Most of the tools listed above can be accessed from a computer that is monitored. Given all the garbage that becomes available to the students via the internet, I do not feel that this overhead is worth the risk.

One concern I would have is having to worry about theft of such an expensive item, as well as inappropriate use of the internet outside of class that I cannot monitor. I am not too familiar with everything the ipod touch does, but I would hope there are ways too monitor what the kids are accessing etc...on the item. I would also hope it wouldn't be a distraction for kids during class if they are using the games portion of the item or any other program they maybe shouldn't be using during class. Again, I have never used an ipod touch, so maybe my concerns aren't even valid ones to worry about. I know that texting and cell phones have gotten out of control in my viewpoint, so I hope this would not be yet another distraction but only a valid learning tool.

Alot more uses than a calculator!

Will check with our own ATT&T and price them out.

concerned with the internet access, loss of the ipod and losing all important data they may have stored on it. I feel all teachers should be "pros" on it first so perhaps Prime time can be used at the beginning of the year to instruct students on the proper and appropriate use of the device and so a student can ask any teacher a question about it and get a correct answer.

I do support it however our family wouldn't have the money to purchase one. We do already have the graphing calculator that would be needed. I do think it is important for our students to know how to function in our technology era. I see the money factor for many families in our econmic crisis being an issue.

We do feel it is important to learn the new technology however, it is not the schools place to force this issue. We feel it is as important to learn with standard tools such as calculators, dictionarys and other reference tools as there will be a time you will need to use these and if you skip teaching it the kids will never know how. You also need to remember these are kids and the temptation to use these devices for other than the intended use will happen regardless of the contracts you want everyone to sign. Lastly we do not like the idea that we will have to pay extra for this device and I know that our tax dollars will pay for many that claim they cannot afford it and that is just wrong when the budget are being squeezed as they currently are. I hope the we are not the only ones that feel this way.

If the iPod Touch supports all the functions the graphing calculator does and adds the additional tools then I'm more for it.

If a iPhone is available to my child is that also an acceptable device?

Technology is great, but we are forgetting about using the resources we have. I went to a presentation on Smart Board Technolgy and how you can create magnets to show how they attract. What happen to giving the student good old magnets. Technology doesn't always work. I've been less productive ins some instances because my technology has stopped me.

We need to make sure the face to face communication and teaching doesn't become obsolete. An IPOD tocuh is not a good idea. I already have a difficult time limiting my 6th grader from facebook. I do not want her having her own Ipod Touch without my supervision. She is too young and irresponsible.

It scares me to think that this maybe used more for communication device. I just hope that we don't lose sight of a 1:1 with the kids and use technology to replace what teachers have done for years and that is to to teach. This is also very expensive, and alot of families are in a tough spot right now, what are you going to do for the ones that can't afford them. I also see this as being a hot item to steal and what is the plan for helping those students that have them stolen. Will it be their problem and they'll have to purchase another one?

Open Text Responses:

My oldest child, an 8th grader, has an ipod touch and I REGRET allowing him to purchase this. He used it inappropriately and it creates one more avenue that my husband and I need to "police". I don't feel these children are at an age that they need one more form of technology to tempt them into inappropriate materials. What is wrong with the pencil and paper for a planner? We have a computer at home to access on-line materials for homework. We have a telephone and vocal cords to communicate with another human being. I also would cringe to watch my child read a "book" on an ipod. Isn't there something to say for holding an actual book in your hands? Are we trying to abolish the library? I know these are some strong words/ideas, but I think we need to seriously look at where this technology is and will be "taking" us. Thank you for asking.

My daughter bought an ipod touch with her own money because of the texting features. I didn't realize there are so many other things you can do with the iPod touch. If students can use all of those features, then I am all for it!

This is a huge investment to have to purchase this. We have older children in our family so would not need to buy a graphing calculator if the school went with the calculator option. With four kids in school, there are so many expenses at the start of each school year. It would be an awesome tool for the kids but seems overwhelming to think of having to purchase this. Also, I would be always be worried about it being stolen. I know they have locks on their lockers, blah blah but they are kids and they don't always think when they set their stuff down in the bathroom or on the floor when gabbing with friends. Then if it is stolen, I assume we would immediately have to purchase another one since this would be something they would need on a daily basis if it includes their planner, classroom resources etc.

I am in total agreement with starting to get students exposed and comfortable with technology, but the survey was obviously written by someone who wants to get iPod Touch in the school. With all the wonderful applications this device offers is there also a monthly fee required. This information should also be given out.

Creative Solution...

My biggest concern, other than cost, would be how the products are integrated into the classroom. My daughter is currently working very hard to save enough money for her ipod touch. She is purchasing to listen to music and networking with her friends. It would be a shame if she spent all this time saving for it for her enjoyment, only for the classroom to monopolies and limit her interaction with the device, because now it is a "School item". \$200.00 is a lot of money for a 12 year old to work to save and she is almost there.

We are very concerned about the novelty of the device, the access to wi-fi Internet wherever that is available (YouTube, and all the other possibilities), and the value of the iPod (lost, stolen, etc.).

This seems like quite a change. That said, we do know that technology is an ever-growing area and can provide many opportunities and break barriers. We would like to hear more thought on how they could/would be monitored, what happens if they are not charged and ready to go or die during an exercise or test, Internet rules, and so forth.

the Golden's

I think I read that there will be assistance for families who are unable to support this program financially. We can't even afford the calculator.

An important step for our children to become involved in technology based learning starts with programs like the one being proposed.

Would consider purchasing this device as long as they would use it throughout their high school years. If it is used only for one or two years, it is not really worth it. Also, newer versions will come out, however, we would not be willing to purchase a new one every year.

Since you requested or recommended us to get a graphic calculator for our son for sixth grade, we did. If we move to the iPod touch, I will

bring the calculator in and you can reimburse us the \$125 that we wasted on the graphing calculator. I really appreciate that your

"questions" made it so that I had to answer one specific way or it sounds like I don't care about my kids education. REALLY GOOD SURVEY!

Our daughter already has a lap top. This would be another tool to keep her computer literate and prepared for the future. As parents we support the idea and look forward to our daughter passing her knowlege of the device on to us.

Open Text Responses:

I would like to know what is driving this initiative.

The last thing we need as parents and educators is less face to face interpersonal communication between students and teachers. Much less, spoken word teaching.

Are we next going to take virtual tours of the State Capital? Show the kids what the inside of the Wright County Court House looks like virtually when it is literally across the street from most Elementary schools in town?

Do we need any more distractions in the classroom? As of today, my child cannot bring her iPod to school. Who will police the use of this device?

Who will be responsible for the first lawsuit when one child sends another an inappropriate text or email via this device? I might pay for it, if I must, but if an inappropriate exchange occurs over it, the school district will be the first call I make.

How do the school teachers feel about this? It would stand to reason that some jobs might be lost.

I would prefer more social interaction, and incur the cost associated with it, than the loss of an actual person with feelings teaching my child.

This seems to be a slippery slope that the district needs to think long and hard about.

Will the voters who do not have children in the system enjoy paying for such a program?

Are there any such programs in place across the country by which to compare or model this effort after?

Please don't get me wrong, I can see the value in the iPod; however, I do have doubts about it being used in a "professional" or non-disruptive way on a daily basis within the classroom. We are talking about 12 and 13 year olds here. Even though this is an anonymous survey, I will give my email address to ensure that my questions are answered in a timely fashion.

Also, I will give the district twice as much time to return an answer as they did me and ask that I hear from the district within 96 hours, or June 14th, regarding this matter.

Thank you for your time,

Bill Nord
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cc:Wright-County Journal Press

I can understand where the school is coming from with adding the ipod touch to the curriulim but there is still alot of down fall with doing so that does not apply to education.

What happens when my childs iPod is stole from them at school? Is the school going to replace it? How is the school going to montor the use of the iPod at school? There is a lot of none education applications that are on the iPod like movies, games,Facebook ect.

How is my child going to access the tools when not at school?

My family doesn't require assistance in purchasing such a device, should it be required. I do have two other comments, however, related to this issue. First, as a parent who is one of the "haves," I'm really getting tired of picking up the slack for the have-not's. We continue to see the school "make arrangements" for other families (lower costs for various school-related items), including waiving of fees, and yet we continue to pay, and pay, and pay. Second point, and related to the first point, I find it interesting that the school is canceling programs, laying off staff, and complaining about a lack of funding, and yet it would appear there is money to deal with this new project.

I absolutely believe in using technology - and that kids need experience in using it appropriately. With that in mind, I am supportive of this move. What I'm not in support of is the people who can afford the fees, paying, while those who make poor choices in their lives and with their financial resources, being carried by the rest.

Keep in mind that many families, like mine, are struggling. Despite this, we have made responsible choices so we are in control of our finances. Because of decisions made at the school-board level, my family was forced to choose between a family vacation, and paying fees for school activities. We made a decision to pay the fees - and they were hefty.

If you're going to subsidize the cost of these devices for ANYONE, I expect that you will subsidze the cost of them for EVERYONE.

That is expensive, but maybe they could be purchased in bulk (by the school) and we could buy them through the school. That would be nice! It could be like a pay-up-front deal so you know exactly how many to order so you're not stuck with any extras.

I don't know how the teachers would be able to supervise use of these ipods during school hours. seems to me you are opening yourself up to a boatload of problems that are not a problem at this time. Our children do not have ipods at this time. I feel they would be more damaging to them as an individual than if they didn't have them at all. The bad outweighs the good. If there was a way to only have the school info available it would seem like a more viable option, but is that possible? Plus there is absolutely no way I could afford to buy each of my children one as they reach 7th grade.

I think its a great idea !