

E-Rate 2020-21

Following up from last month with the approval of our Category 1 (internet) and Category 2 (wireless and networking equipment) our Form 468 telling the E-Rate people everything is official is being submitted this week well in advance of our September 30th deadline to submit the 468.

We have started the process of creating orders with HighPoint Networks for the order and delivery of wireless and network equipment so it will arrive the middle of July. It could be ready sooner but e-rate rules are very clear that we cannot receive, install or be invoiced for any materials until July 1, 2020 for the 2020-21 e-rate fiscal year. The other stipulation is that everything is installed and operational by June 30, 2021 which is will be completed as we hope to have most things installed and running by the beginning of the school year for all buildings except middle school and middle school as soon as we have keys turned over to us to start installing/updating network equipment.

Student connectivity -

We finished the school year and collected several Jet Packs. We have now activated 12 Jet Packs for high school summer school and it appears 2 for the GearUP summer STEAM program. This is one of those costs we will look to the CARES act money to cover for us as the costs were not budgeted anywhere.

Summer technology for students -

The high school elected to let the underclassmen keep their iPads checked out over the summer. No reports as of yet if this will be successful nor any issues brought to our attention as of this date so far. It will present a challenge as we are now unable to perform updates on the iPads so there will need to be some student time devoted to updating devices when they return.

Summer work -

At first it doesn't seem like much but we will be doing clean up and replacing of security cameras around the district. We'll also be running network cable for additional camera requests and hopefully we'll start to be able to get into the middle school while final construction is being completed to have as much networking up and running as possible for the return of staff and students (yes, remaining optimistic we'll be in our buildings to start the new school year - this story to be determined.....)