

Netbooks for Students

Educational research indicates that businesses need young people who have developed the skills listed below. Most adults now carry their information, addresses, plans, files, presentations and means of communication with them in a briefcase or even a pocket. We cannot expect our students to compete in that world if we only allow them access to stationary technology for limited blocks of time.

Netbooks will help students develop the 21st Century Skills they will need for life.

- ✓ 21st Century Skills
 - Technological Literacy
 - Wikis, Twitter, Texting, Flickr, Social Networking, Skype, GPS, Books On-line, Music Downloads, Document Sharing, etc. are all part of daily life.
 - We use technology comprehensively, not in isolation.
 - Students need to learn to use technology appropriately, safely and creatively in all aspects of life.
 - Media Literacy
 - Discernment: (Just because it's on TV or on the internet, doesn't make it true.) Students need to learn to sift through the incredible amount of available information to find what they need and what is appropriate.
 - Media production: audio and video.
 - Marketing
 - Blogging
 - Communication
 - Students should be communicating with each other, with teachers, with classrooms around the world, with mentors in the community, with experts in the areas the students are studying.
 - Students can benefit if parents and teachers have better, consistent means of communication.
 - Independent Learning
 - Resources available in any part of the school at any time encourages discovery and engagement.
 - Using a medium that is familiar and comfortable will motivate students to take lessons further.
 - Creativity
 - The availability of on-line resources and software applications available will inspire students to go beyond the usual.
 - Connectivity will make them aware of what other students are doing, what is possible, encourage them to stretch their own capabilities.
 - Cultural Literacy
 - Students will be able to connect with and collaborate with students around the world in preparation for the business relationships they will likely have in the future.
 - Eco-Literacy
 - Document sharing, email alerts and wiki discussion forums move us toward paperless classrooms.
 - Resources and experts available online for local as well as global ecological information and issues.

By providing each student with a netbook and wireless connection at school, we will be allowing them to pursue their education in a manner that more closely resembles real life, preparing them for whatever future they decide to pursue.