



South Adams 1:1 High School Student Laptop Program FAQ's



Why provide high school students with 1:1 laptops rather than replace classroom desktop units?

The majority of our current high school classroom computers are 5+ years old and need replaced. We have **450** computers laptops/desktops located in 18 out of 29 classrooms. There is a growing need to have computers in all classroom locations. Financially, it is more cost effective to provide our 400 high school students their own laptop than purchase new computers for current and future locations.

What is the educational value of providing high school students with their own laptop?

We are doing many things well at South Adams as our test scores and graduation rate indicate. Our initial launch of the 1:1 program is **not** to drastically change what we are currently doing in the classroom, but provide the necessary tools the students need. We do not plan to go "New Tech" or drop all current textbooks next year. Will we continue to purchase textbooks in the future? This will depend on the course/subject regarding availability of digital curriculum.

Student Benefits:

- Provide immediate access to do homework, research, note taking in any classroom.
- Provide endless opportunities to use digital curriculum/resources.
- Familiarity of personal device.
- Provide a sense of pride and ownership.
- Develop responsibility and organization.
- Train and educate the student in maintenance and care of a laptop.
- Train and educate the student in digital citizenship and 21st century skills.
- Prepare students to use collaboration tools for college, vocational schools and the workforce (we currently use Gagle, Moodle, and EdModo).

How are the laptops being paid for?

The initial launch of the 1:1 program is through a 4-year lease program. Installment payments will come out of the high school annual technology budget. Additional laptops purchased for incoming freshmen will be bought directly and will be paid through book rental and hardware technology funds.

Will book rental costs increase?

No, the average book rental will not increase. There will be a book rental laptop charge for all students, but other textbook costs are being reduced through recycling of books, using digital resources, etc.

Does the laptop belong to the student? No, the laptop is the property of South Adams Schools, just like a textbook. The same laptop will be assigned to the student each high school year.

What happens if the laptop is damaged? The corporation will provide accidental insurance that will be funded by an annual student maintenance fee. The annual maintenance fee is yet to be determined, but is anticipated to be around \$30. Families will be required to pay this amount (separate from book rental fees) when they pick up the laptop prior to school beginning in the fall. If a check bounces the laptop must be returned until cash payment is received. Refunds will not be made if a student leaves the school year early. The accidental policy covers a one time claim over \$100 or individual small claims up to \$100. Parents/Guardians will be responsible for repair costs beyond a one-time claim each school year.

What happens if the laptop is lost or stolen? Parents and guardians are responsible for payment of a lost or stolen laptop. Lost power chargers and/or batteries are also the responsibility of the parent/guardian. The value of the laptop is \$615. Parents are encouraged to check with their home-owners policy regarding coverage. We also recommend a free software download at preyproject.com. This software helps track a laptop, however it is not 100% guaranteed.

Did we consider other devices such as iPads and Android tablets?

Yes, we evaluated all of these devices. A team of high school students helped our District Technology Council with research and planning. Although the iPad and Android tablets have many free apps to download, the tablets do not provide a full operating system that is needed to run software required at school. The students also agreed they would prefer to have a full size laptop when working on their assignments. We will continue to evaluate devices year to year as we purchase new equipment for incoming freshmen.

What laptop will the students be using?

A Dell Vostro with a 9-cell battery. This longer-life battery will hold a charge the entire school day if students follow recommended power saving settings.

When will the students receive their laptop?

The student will receive their laptop during school registration in August. A parent or legal guardian is required to come with their child during school registration to sign appropriate paperwork and pay the annual accidental/maintenance fee. A laptop **will not** be provided to the student if the paperwork is not signed in person at school and the full accidental fee is not collected.

What are the student responsibilities in caring for the laptop?

Students will be expected to take their laptop home with them nightly and bring the laptop to school the next day fully charged. If the student forgets their laptop or the battery is not charged, the student may use an older model laptop in the classroom. A temporary laptop will **not** be given to them to carry throughout the day. Students may also use a pass from the student handbook to have their laptop charged at the tech center, but they will not be allowed to bring chargers to school. We will provide a carrying case for the students to transport their laptop home and from class to class. Labels and tags are not to be removed. Permanent alterations to the laptop or carrying bag are not permitted and will be regarded as damage.

How will the student keep the laptop upgraded? Students will be required to check the high school website regularly for important update information. Instructions to upgrades and installs will be included.

Where will students go for tech support?

There will be a student tech support station located in the high school library for computer questions, reset of passwords, assistance with upgrades and hardware repair. Laptops should not be repaired by anyone other than the South Adams technology department.

What things are students permitted to do with their laptop?

Students may use their laptop for educational, legal, and appropriate activity. Students are expected to read and abide by the technology policy in their student handbook.

What things are not permitted? Students cannot download pirated software or songs. Students can not use the laptop to access, submit, post, publish or display defamatory, inaccurate, abusive, obscene, profane, sexually oriented, threatening, racially offensive, harassing or illegal material, or any other material deemed educationally inappropriate. Students must be aware of copyright laws regarding media and abide by those laws. Students cannot install restrictive software as it will interfere with online testing and other programs used at school. Students cannot install additional/different operating systems, nor

are they allowed to reinstall the Windows Operating System. No alterations to the hardware of the computer should be done i.e. adding additional memory, etc.

Can a student use his/her own personal laptop at school? No.

What if a family does not have internet access at home? Our parent/student surveys reflect that 92% of homes do have internet access. However, teachers are aware that not all families have internet access or high speed access and will keep that in mind when assigning homework. Students will not be required to have internet access at home.

Will students be required to carry laptops to all classes? Yes, unless the teacher specifies otherwise.

Can students take their laptop to lunch? No.

Will students keep their laptop over summer vacation? No, the laptops will be turned back in on the last day of school. The same laptop will be given back to the student the next fall.

Will the laptops have different internet filter settings after school hours? The laptops will run through our school internet filter at all times. Sites blocked through our internet filter will be blocked regardless of the location of the laptop.

Can students use ear buds, mice, and flash drives? Students may listen to music if the classroom rules permit and if they have ear buds so they are not disruptive to other students. A mouse is a personal option, but must be purchased at the student's expense. Flash drives should be kept at home, and used to back up files.

What will happen to senior laptops? (Pending board approval)

Seniors graduating in 2013 will have the option of purchasing their laptop for \$155.

Seniors graduating in 2014 will have the option of purchasing their laptop for \$120.

Seniors graduating in 2015 will have the option of purchasing their laptop for \$65.

Seniors graduating in 2016 will have the option of purchasing their laptop for \$55.

What research was performed by the District Technology Council?

Visited Plymouth Schools – 1:1 middle and high school

Visited East Noble Schools – 1:1 corporation

1:1 Workshop at HECC Conference

Feedback from Randolph Eastern Schools – 1:1 high school

Monthly Northeast Indiana District Technology Council Meetings

Online research by the District Technology Council Research Committee

IASBO Workshop