



Riverside School District 96  
Riverside, Illinois

1 to 1 Laptop Initiative for 2009-10

-----Frequently Asked Questions-----

**1. What's the name of this initiative?**

We'll refer to this program as the "1 to 1 laptop initiative." Nine months ago it was labeled the "5 for 4 program."

**2. Why do students in District 96 need the 1 to 1 laptop initiative?**

The District 96 philosophy statement on technology states that students are entering a world where the ability to work with technology is an essential skill. The Riverside Public Schools want to provide effective technology related experiences as tools to help our children prepare for a successful life in today's digital society.

Through technology, the District provides access for students and staff to resources and links them to information from around the world. Expanding technologies take students and staff beyond the confines of the classroom; provide tremendous opportunities for enhancing, extending, and rethinking the teaching/ learning process; and assist in preparing each student to be a productive citizen.

### 3. What's the history of technology in District 96?

In District 96 we have provided access to technology for students and teachers in the following ways as we have moved from shared technologies to designated (1 to 1 laptops) technologies.

- Prior to 2004 – Every grade two through grade 8 classroom had four desktop computers. Kindergarten and grade 1 had one desktop computer. A full time junior high technology specialist was hired in 1999 and a full time elementary technology specialist was hired in 2001. During this time there was a part time technology coordinator.
- 2004-05 – Fifth grade classrooms were equipped with 8 laptops per room.
- 2005-06 - Fourth grade classrooms were equipped with 8 laptops per room
- 2006-07 – Mobile labs (carts) of laptops were installed for shared use in the elementary and junior high schools. Itinerant teachers were provided with a laptop. A full time technology director was employed to replace the part time technology coordinator upon the retirement of Hauser's head librarian.
- 2007-08 – Additional mobile labs were added to provide additional access at all schools in grades kindergarten through eight. A majority of the teachers were provided a laptop.
- 2008-09 - Additional mobile labs were added to provide additional access at all schools. All teachers issued a laptop. School Board approves goal to design a 1 to 1 laptop initiative for next year's 5<sup>th</sup> grade students. Liz Whaley, Hauser's technology specialist/teacher, is assigned project manager for the initiative.
- 2009-10 – District implements 1 to 1 laptop program in fifth grades across the district. Ms. Whaley will oversee the laptop initiative.

The 1 to 1 initiative is a logical extension of the growth of technology use and skills for our students. Related personnel and hardware needs have grown in order for our students to meet the National Educational Technology Standards for Students and our mission imperatives.

The link for the National Educational Technology Standards for Students is:

[http://www.iste.org/Content/NavigationMenu/NETS/ForStudents/2007Standards/NETS\\_for\\_Students\\_2007\\_Standards.pdf](http://www.iste.org/Content/NavigationMenu/NETS/ForStudents/2007Standards/NETS_for_Students_2007_Standards.pdf)

The link for Riverside School District 96's mission and imperatives is:

<http://www.district96.org/about-district-96/mission-statement/>

#### **4. How does the 1 to 1 laptop initiative meet the District 96 mission?**

- Students will develop 21<sup>st</sup> century skills that support creativity and innovation.
- Students will become self-directed learners who exhibit critical thinking skills in choosing tools and resources.
- Students will exhibit respect and responsibility as global citizens.
- If an administrative request is submitted and approved by the School Board for students at an elementary school to be permitted use of the laptop outside of the school day, the 1 to 1 laptop program will extend learning beyond the walls of the classroom by providing 24/7 access to digital tools to support academic excellence.

#### **5. How will a 1 to 1 laptop initiative enhance learning?**

This program will help create 21<sup>st</sup> century learners who will excel in a competitive global marketplace. Students will be more engaged in their own learning. Students will have access to information and be able to learn beyond the school day. Technology supports students as they learn at various skill levels and through a variety of learning styles. Students will be engaged in technology projects that reach beyond the classroom and allow students anytime access to technology. These projects support, enhance, and align with the District 96 curriculum, the Illinois Learning Standards and the National Education Technology Standards.

**6. What will the 1 to 1 laptop initiative look like?**

Students will receive an Apple MacBook laptop and carrying case in fifth grade. The student will use this laptop for school purposes through eighth grade. Students will be trained in the proper use and care of the laptop. The project manager will provide support to students, teachers, and serve as the parent liaison.

**7. How will Internet Safety be addressed?**

Currently, every school has web filtering in place in compliance with the Federal “Children’s Internet Protection Act” (CIPA). Laptops in the 1 to 1 initiative will be filtered in the same way. Students will receive extensive instruction regarding the safe use of the Internet. If a request by administration is submitted and approved by the School Board for students at an elementary school to be permitted use of the laptop outside of the school day, the laptops will have web filtering turned on and parents will be provided assistance in following the guidelines for home Internet safety provided by the Illinois Attorney General’s office.

**8. What will the daily operation of the program look like?**

- Students will be supervised by staff members when using laptops.
- Students will carry their laptops in the messenger bag provided.
- Laptops (batteries) will be charged on a daily basis.
- Laptops will be kept in a designated secure area when students are at lunch and specials.
- Students will have email accounts that will be used for school purposes only.
- Printers will be available for student use at school.
- Loaner laptops will be available when a student’s laptop needs repair.
- Laptop repairs will be handled by technology staff and through vendor warranty.

**9. When will students begin taking their laptops home?**

The Board of Education will approve take home dates based on student readiness and staff recommendations on per school basis. If the Board of Education does not approve a recommendation for students at a particular school to use their laptops at home, then students will only use the designated laptop at school.

**10. What software will be available on the laptops?**

Word processor, Spreadsheet, Pages, Keynote, Numbers, iMovie, iDVD, iTunes, iPhoto, iWeb, Garage Band, Comic Life, Safari, Firefox, iChat, Photo Booth, Dictionary, iCal, Google Earth, Google SketchUp. This list will be updated as needed.

**11. Who can answer additional questions?**

Liz Whaley, project manager for the 1 to 1 laptop initiative, will be the best contact person. Currently, she is the technology specialist/teacher at Hauser Junior High School. The best way to contact Ms. Whaley is through e-mail at [whaleye@district96.org](mailto:whaleye@district96.org).

**12. When I send a question about this initiative, how will my question be answered?**

Liz Whaley will direct you to the FAQ posted on the district's website if your question is added to the listing. If not, she will answer your question via e-mail or regular mail if you do not have an e-mail address.

**13. How will new questions or new information be included in this FAQ?**

All new questions will be added at the end of FAQ. Existing FAQ's will not be edited. Therefore, readers won't have to reread all questions and answers for changes.

**14. What happens to the position of project manager if the program fails?**

If the School Board determines at a point in the future that students should no longer have use of a dedicated laptop, then the project manager will be reassigned according to seniority procedures listed in the collective bargaining contract to an appropriate position requiring teacher certification.

**15. What is the NEW salary cost of the project manager for 1 to 1 laptop initiative?**

Salary budget will remain unaffected by this program. The project manager, Ms. Whaley, is an exceptionally capable 10-year District 96 technology specialist who requested reassignment to this exciting new role. Overall, she has spent nearly 25 years in educational technology. Since Ms. Whaley is already an employee, salary expenses are already included in the prior year's budget; compensation costs generally increase about 4% due to the collective bargaining agreement.

**16. How many laptops will you buy?**

District 96 has 168 fourth graders. We would purchase 170 -175 computers.

**17. Will my 5<sup>th</sup> grader be without a computer if it needs to be repaired?**

No, a computer would be loaned during a normal repair cycle so a student would not be without this essential resource during the school day. The loaned computer would be returned when the repaired laptop is reissued to the student.

**18. How much will be spent to buy the new laptops?**

Administration is still negotiating with Apple for a meaningful discount to our current education pricing so the district should know the final amount by mid-June. However, the cost of laptops for this program – currently projected at \$150K – fits within our historic

budget allocation for new computers. District 96 budgeted \$171K for computers – nearly all laptops – for the 2008-09 school year. This annual amount has remained relatively unchanged, except for an inflation factor, during the past 7+ years due to the district’s long-standing commitment to technology.

**19. Won’t the district buy new laptops for this program and then buy even more laptops for schools, thereby doubling the spending for computers?**

No, that is not the current plan. Rather than continuing our existing practice of having laptops shared and distributed among students and classes, this initiative allows for dedicated-use laptops at one grade level – fifth grade – during 2009-10. Elementary classes other than 5<sup>th</sup> grade will have greater access to the current inventory of laptop carts since existing carts will not be shared with 5<sup>th</sup> grade.

**20. Will students take the laptop home next summer?**

No. The laptops will be cleaned and re-imaged during the summer. In the fall, students will be reissued the same laptop they used the previous school year.

**21. What happens to the laptops after next year?**

When next year’s 5<sup>th</sup> graders enter Hauser as 6<sup>th</sup> graders in 2010-11, each student will be issued the laptop he/she used in 2009-10 for use during 6<sup>th</sup> grade. The same process will repeat itself until next year’s 5<sup>th</sup> graders complete 8<sup>th</sup> grade in 2012-13.

**22. Can parents buy the laptop from the district when the student finishes 8<sup>th</sup> grade and goes to high school?**

Good question...no answer yet. We have 4 years to think about this question.

**23. Won't the district have to hire more staff for tech support just for this initiative?**

Even with our current inventory of computers and high use by staff and students, the district needs to consider fiscally responsible solutions to meet existing tech support needs of 140+ staff and a student enrollment of nearly 1,500. Actually, many districts experience fewer tech support needs with 1 to 1 laptop initiatives. Students demonstrate a high degree of responsibility for the laptop because it is essential for daily work and it is NOT shared with other students in the same class or with other grades in the same school.

**24. How much will the district spend on staff development for this program?**

As with other initiatives – implementing middle school philosophy, using MAP results for differentiation, implementing new Social Studies curriculum, etc. – the district will place this program in the first tier of funded staff development activities funded from the existing budget allocation for staff development. No “new dollars” for staff development will be allocated to this program.

**25. Why is the district planning to buy Apple computers rather than PCs?**

For many years, students in District 96 have only used Apple computers. Apple and PC users and specialists could arm wrestle for quite some time to arrive at a correct answer – assuming they could agree - to which product is superior. Essentially, the district opts for Apple products because of product quality/durability, quality of training, and symmetry between hardware and software – both are developed and supported by Apple. For example, district tech staff members never deal with conflicts among Microsoft, a software provider and Dell Computer Corp.

**26. Will parents of a 5<sup>th</sup> grader have to pay for insurance or anything else next year?**

A fee is not anticipated at this time for 2009-10. Since Apple provides a one-year warranty on new laptops, an insurance program for next year doesn't appear to make economic sense.

**27. Will there be a parent fee after next year...maybe in 2011-11 and beyond?**

Good question...no answer yet. However, we are definitely looking at various warranty support programs for 2010-11 and beyond that could be considered by the School Board for their approved student fee list. At this time, no student fee has been established for this initiative.

**28. How much will this program increase my property taxes?**

This program will not increase the amount paid in property taxes.

**29. If the School Board hadn't approved this initiative, how much lower would my property taxes be?**

If this program had not been approved, the amount paid in property taxes would not be lower.

**30. I heard that the district has to put in fiber optics, wireless access points and update servers at each of the schools in order to support this laptop program. Is that right?**

No, that is not correct; this program would function next year without any improvement to our tech infrastructure. Irrespective of whether 5<sup>th</sup> graders have a dedicated computer for their use – 1 to 1 laptop initiative - next year or not, the district continues to upgrade its technology infrastructure to the extent allowed within existing budget levels. The reason is straightforward – everyone expects more and more from technology, not less.

For example, two years ago the district exchanged the paper and pencil Iowa Test of Basic Skills for a web-based instrument - Measures of Academic Progress (MAP). The value of this new assessment is extraordinary; however, it highlights how our expectations for technology grow year after year. By the way, the district's schools are already wireless.

**31. How is the district going to have enough money for this program year after year without another referendum?**

This program will not require a referendum. Except for the modest cost of purchasing computer-carrying bags, this program does not add higher expenses to the current budget. We believe that the 1 to 1 laptop initiative is simply a smarter way to allocate our historic and current budgeted technology dollars.

**32. When did the School Board approve the goal to design a 1 to 1 laptop initiative for school year 2009-10?**

For the past four years, the School Board has approved in early fall a set of goals to be accomplished during the school year. The goal of designing a 1 to 1 laptop initiative program for the 2009-10 school year was part of that normal planning cycle. The School Board began discussing program parameters and composition 9 months ago in August '08. Two months later, the Board approved the following goal pertaining to this initiative: "Design "5 for 4" program – every fifth grader in 2009-10 will be issued their own laptop to use for the next 4 years – using only new funding that does NOT increase local property taxes."

Here's the link of the entire list of goals:

<http://www.district96.org/wp-content/uploads/2009/04/2008-09-district-goals.pdf>

### **33. When will the School Board approve the 1 to 1 laptop initiative?**

April 21, 2009, the School Board approved Ms. Whaley as project manager for the 1 to 1 laptop initiative. Thereby, approving the program for 2009-10. Programs are not officially approved until the School Board formally allocates funding. After nine months of public discussion that is part of the normal consensus decision-making process, the School Board on April 21<sup>st</sup> to fund the project manager position that is actually a reassignment of an existing staff member.

### **34. I thought there was supposed to be “outside” funding?**

The School Board charged administration with designing a program that would not INCREASE local property taxes, not designing a program that would be wholly dependent on outside funding.

Actually, Dr. Lamberson recommended adding the language pertaining to funding because of concern that the district’s exploding enrollment is already 200+ students beyond what was projected in the 2004 Ed. fund referendum. Administration was optimistic in the summer and early fall of 2008 that several private foundations might consider helping the district in this initiative – in a similar manner that half of the new equipment in Hauser’s student fitness room was paid for by private donations.

Unfortunately, the stock market, according to a recent article in USA Today, lost \$9.3 trillion from the time this goal was initially discussed by the BOE to April 1, 2009.

Private grants dried up.

Public competitive grants were never under consideration because of the typical language embedded in most public competitive grants. Here’s an example from a recent announcement for a competitive state grant: “Priority is given to SFAs (*districts*) seeking equipment assistance for schools with 50 percent or more of their students eligible for free or reduced-price meals” – application for a competitive grant for food service equipment. Also, competitive grants are typically short-term. Administration did not want to start a program that is subject to the variability of Springfield’s decision-makers. This same concern was echoed by many parents at PTA/O meetings since Oct. ’08.

The School Board and superintendent did not want to place undo pressure on the district's finances even though the district's fiscal outlook is strong and healthy. After months of discussion, receiving feedback, etc., administration concluded that this program could fit within our existing technology expense levels and therefore local property taxes would not increase for this program. Another way of saying it would be that if this program is NOT approved, taxes would NOT be lowered.

**35. How much does the district spend on new computers?**

\$171K was allocated for the purchase of new computers this year (2008-09). This annual amount has remained relatively unchanged, except for an inflation factor, during the past 7+ years due to the district's long-standing commitment to technology.

**36. How much will the district spend on computers next year in 2009-10?**

Though the district's final 2009-10 budget is scheduled for adoption in Sept. '09, administration anticipates spending \$175K next year compared to \$171K this year. Clearly, the budget allocation is predicated on the School Board continuing its historic commitment to technology.

**37. Could the School Board simply add the cost of this program to existing technology budgets?**

Yes. The School Board could make any budget decision it deems appropriate – including modifying its own goal.

**38. If the School Board adds the cost of this program to existing technology, taxes have to increase. Is that right? Wouldn't this violate the goal by requiring more new taxes?**

No. IF the School Board was interested in ADDING this program on top of existing technology budgets, the School Board's Finance Committee has discussed the following 3 ways of satisfying this conditional portion of the goal by either reducing costs elsewhere in the budget OR finding reliable, non-property tax revenue:

1. The district is annually "saving" over \$200K in health insurance costs because of a negotiated 0% increase in rates this year with no diminution of benefits and a 50% cut in the fees paid to the insurance broker. This expense reduction in benefits – realized but not projected in the budget due to timing issues of negotiated rates – could be an expense shift in the budget with no overall additional spending. This shifting of expenses is common in our home budgets; for example, compared to last year, we'll spend less on vacations in order to make payments on a new car. Overall, the same amount may be spent, but for different things.
2. The district's fiscal condition – present and forecasted – remains healthy because of the 2004 referendum, relentless cost savings measures, lean administration, etc. Therefore, we continue to benefit from ever-higher interest income. Two years ago, the district earned \$129K in interest. Last year, the number jumped \$230K to a total of \$359K. Though, administration doesn't envision a similar stellar jump every year, interest earnings this year will be up at least \$150K compared to last year. Certainly, the low fed rate will affect future earnings. However, the School Board can now rely on a reliable source of increasing funds via investment earnings for what is now unassigned expenses.
3. This year, the district paid its last "mortgage payment." The School Board no longer has debt due to previous life safety referenda. However, the district has a balance of nearly \$300K in the fund to make mortgage payments due to prudent debt management, loss and cost collections by Cook County, accumulated interest earnings for many years, etc. These dollars are unassigned. The School Board could use these funds – albeit one-time only – for the 1 to 1 laptop initiative program or, of course, for some other program or simply hold onto it for now.

**39. In the fall and early winter of 2008, parents at PTA/O meetings were told that 5<sup>th</sup> graders next year would be able to take the laptops home. What changed?**

Nationally, a component of laptop initiatives such as the one discussed in August, September and October 2008 was to allow students use of this tool for learning when outside the classroom. However, during conversations with parents and updates to the School Board during the past 9 months, it became obvious that a portion of our parent community was becoming more and more unsettled about the use of this learning tool at home. Concerns about students' physical safety in transporting the laptop to and from school, potential financial liability for accidental damage to the laptop, and internet safety issues appeared as the dominant concerns. Administration determined that more conversation with parents and the School Board would be essential before this tool would be available for use outside the classroom.

**40. Isn't it possible for Vern Bettis, the Director of Technology, to be the project manager so no one else has to be hired?**

No, Mr. Bettis' job responsibilities are already too extensive (see below). Unlike other districts that confine responsibilities for the Director of Technology to only technology issues, District 96 has a much broader job description. Mr. Bettis is also responsible for 5 school libraries. This responsibility was added when Hauser's head librarian retired 3 years ago.

The following list is detailed in a five-page job description for the position of Director of Technology:

Network administration - school and district level, technology budget and purchasing, professional development for instructional and administrative technology, curriculum development for moderate and high level technology courses, manage administrative software, oversee 5 media centers/libraries - supervision, budgeting, and purchasing, oversee information services (e-mail and websites), server administrator (10+ servers in 6 locations), manage Internet services - Illinois Century Network, serve as client manager for 600+ desktops

and laptops, maintain network security and filtering, manage Intranet services, perform technician support services (servers, desktops, and laptops), manage E-rate program, update state-mandated technology plan

Of course, other more specific duties have been added as the demand for technology grows in the district:

Support human resources (Applitrack job employment application software); manage extensive data systems: state-mandated SIS (student information system) requiring data integrity for 142K data points (96 data fields for 1,480 students), state-mandated special education reporting via IEP software and AIMS Web; maintain districts' SIS (student information system) – PowerSchool; manage system for on-line attendance, manage system for on-line gradebook – PowerTeacher; manage parent portal and student portal via PowerSchool; construct library schedules for 5 schools; assist in constructing Hauser's course schedule and specials (art, music, PE) schedules; manage parent communication system – SchoolReach; support maintenance on all printers, copiers, telephone systems at 6 locations; maintains on-line calendar; provides critical support for the 1 to 1 laptop initiative; plans and administers the NWEA MAP (Measures of Academic Progress) assessment at multiple times during the school year

**41. If Ms. Whaley is going to be project manager, will she continue to be Hauser's technology specialist/teacher? If not, who is going to do her old job?**

No, Ms. Whaley will not be Hauser's technology specialist/teacher next year. Her current position will be thoroughly evaluated in context of tech. support throughout the district. It's common practice that whenever a position in the district becomes vacant, administration reevaluates that position to determine the essential duties, both present and future, and then concludes what job duties and responsibilities are critical. The district will then search for the highest quality person – either by reassignment or a new person – to fill these important duties.

**42. Is a project manager really needed if students don't take the laptop home?**

Yes, the project manager will have more than a full-time job as her main focus will be working in 4 schools, supporting 8 classroom teachers, 4 principals, 6 special education resource teachers, the specials teachers (art, music, physical education) nearly 170 students in implementing national technology standards that would not be possible without ubiquitous ready-access to technology during the school day.

Ms. Whaley's job duties significantly increase mid-year as she begins working with 6<sup>th</sup> grade teachers in preparation for the 2010-11 school year when each 6<sup>th</sup> grader will use a laptop in every class.

**43. Will the project manager be responsible for PR in community about this initiative?**

Yes, Ms. Whaley will have a lead role; however, all of us - School Board, administration, teachers, students, and parents – will have the opportunity to highlight the positive outcomes of using this learning tool.

**44. Won't students just spend all of their time surfing the Internet during school?**

No. The laptop is a tool for learning. It will be used accordingly. District 96 teachers are outstanding professionals who will continue using sound professional judgment in all aspects of teaching and learning.

**45. Why is the district starting this program in 5<sup>th</sup> grade, not 6<sup>th</sup>?**

The success of this type of program is dependent on effective, real-time staff development and building good student technology habits for learning. Three primary reasons contributed to the decision to start in 5<sup>th</sup> grade: 1) 5<sup>th</sup> graders attend self-contained classes – one teacher reinforcing good tech habits; we need students establishing effective tech habits before they enter 6<sup>th</sup> grade when they have multiple teachers in multiple classrooms, 2) 6<sup>th</sup> grade teachers recently transitioned to a middle

school philosophy – Hauser’s principal believes that 2010-11 would be the earliest date it would reasonable for the staff to adjust to a learning environment of 6<sup>th</sup> grade students with this resource given the ongoing efforts to implement the middle school, 3) 5<sup>th</sup> grade teachers and students are ready to use this resource; tech competence among 5<sup>th</sup> grade teachers and 5<sup>th</sup> grade students is well above similar high performing schools – probably more comparable to junior high grade levels.

**46. I heard that some District 96 staff members visited other districts that offer this type of program. What surprised them in those visits?**

Two themes emerged in these visits: 1) logistical issues were ultimately non-issues, 2) positive impact on special education students. All of schools visited by the task force implemented a program that allowed students to use the laptop outside of the school day. Though each school had compiled a long list of potential issues related to laptop safety, care of the laptop, etc., teachers involved with the program were surprised that these potential issues never materialized. Also, the schools anticipated that their respective initiatives would benefit all students. They were surprised by the amazingly positive impact the program had on special education students. Students with special needs finally had a comprehensive tool for organization, communication, reviewing content in various ways, writing and reading using speech recognition, researching, coaching regular ed students on software use, etc.

**47. How is the district going to assess the effectiveness of this program?**

This program will be evaluated based on its contribution to the district’s mission. For example, administration and staff will assess if students are becoming – as listed in mission deliverables – more curious, more meta-cognition (able to think about one’s thinking), active truth-seekers, better strategic thinkers, prudent skeptics, and skilled life-long learners. As listed in the district’s mission, there are key criteria for this assessment:

- Students continuously ask questions, seek evidence to support answers, and are critical consumers of information.

- Students recognize that differences in thinking are essential in seeking truth and understanding.
- Students take ownership of their learning by monitoring and adjusting their thinking.
- Students communicate their thinking in a variety of ways, drawing from evidence and experiences that they have organized with an essential question in mind.

Ms. Whaley will work with students, teachers, principals and parents to effectively assess and improve the program.

#### **48. Who is the administrator in charge of the program?**

As with any initiative or program in District 96, an administrator is assigned to lead this program. This initiative, though deeply rooted in technology, will only be effective if it positively impacts learning. Therefore, a school principal – defined by state law as an instructional leader – is the administrator in charge of the program. Colleen Lieggi, Ames’ Principal, will be the administrative liaison for the laptop program. She successfully led a 6-person task force since the fall to develop a design for the 1 to 1 laptop initiative that would satisfy the School Board’s goal. If you would like to contact Ms. Lieggi, please feel free to call her at Ames’ School (708/447-0759) or e-mail ([lieggic@district96.org](mailto:lieggic@district96.org)).

#### **49. What’s going to happen when these students go to high school and they don’t have a laptop?**

It’s difficult to predict what will happen in August 2013 when next year’s 5<sup>th</sup> graders enter high school. As this program moves into its 2<sup>nd</sup> year, administration will work with high school officials so they are aware of the extensive skill set Hauser’s students are acquiring related to the essential goals of technology, as stated in the National Education Technology Standards:

- **Creativity and Innovation** – Students demonstrate creative thinking, construct knowledge, and develop innovative products and processes using technology.
- **Communication and Collaboration** – Students use digital media and environments to communicate and work collaboratively, including at a distance, to support individual learning and contribute to the learning of others.
- **Research and Information Fluency** – Students apply digital tools to gather, evaluate, and use information.
- **Critical Thinking, Problem Solving, and Decision Making** – Students use critical thinking skills to plan and conduct research, manage projects, solve problems and make informed decisions using appropriate digital tools and resources.
- **Digital Citizenship** – Students understand human, cultural and societal issues related to technology and practice legal and ethical behavior.
- **Technology Operations and Concepts** – Students demonstrate a sound understanding of technology concepts, systems, and operations.

**50. I heard there would be a meeting with 5<sup>th</sup> grade parents before school starts next year. Do you have a date set?**

No, we're not planning on a meeting with parents before next year's school year. In the fall of '08 when the initial idea was that students would use this resource outside of the school day, a parent meeting would be essential. However, students will not use this technology outside of the school day until allowed to do so by the School Board.

Therefore, a parent meeting – that could interfere with vacation plans, etc. - BEFORE the school year is not necessary. However, Ms. Whaley would like to schedule meetings for parents once the 2009-10 school year begins; these evening meetings in September 2009 will be announced as soon as possible.