

Session Topic: 1 to 1 Laptop Initiative: Is Your School Ready?

Presenter: Morrie Reece, Education Development Executive, Apple Computers

Overview: This presentation outlines the procedure for providing one laptop computer for every student in the classroom and beyond. It thoroughly addresses any questions a district might have and helps determine: Are you ready?

District Contact: Gracie MacDonell, Northeast Middle, gmacdonell@pkwy.k12.mo.us

Website: <http://www.apple.com/education/onetoone/>

Summary:

This session addresses every issue a school needs to consider when introducing one laptop computer for every child and outlines the procedures necessary. The program is a fascinating look into the future. Students have the opportunity to check out a laptop from their school all year long and use it as their own personal work computer in the classroom and at home. Though this process is complicated and a bit daunting, it is also entirely possible and very exciting! Morrie Reece of Apple computers gave a 1+ hour presentation on why and how a school or district would go about this process. The following are notes and commentary based off of his keynote presentation.

WHY even consider this program?

Apple brings up a good point... can you imagine a company sharing computers among employees? Mr. Reece asserts that in order to prepare students for a technology saturated work place we need to make them technology literate now. And, since students are not "specialized" yet, they need a versatile and multi-functioning tool that serves across many content areas.

WHO is already doing this program?

Over 38,000 students in Maine, 5,100 students in Shaumburg, IL, 2,300 students in Indianapolis, IN, and the list goes on.

WHAT is needed in order to make this program work?

- Supportive administration who can deliver a clear vision to constituents.
- Clear expectations for staff, students, and school board.
- Clearly identified tools for success within the content areas.

WHAT messages need to be sent to teachers?

- This program can increase student achievement.
- This program "levels the playing field."
- This program teaches 21st century skills.
- This program enhances and compliments learning.
- This program is secure.
- This program leaves an "electronic trail" for teachers to follow.

HOW can a district expect to finance such a project?

- This project must be taken seriously and worked into the budget.
- Long term financing is a must for many districts.
- Some choose to do away with text books and use online resources to cut costs.
- Some make deals with internet companies to provide internet in the home of every student who is a part of the program.

HOW does a district prepare its staff?

- Substantial staff development is critical for this project to work.
- Teachers should be enthusiastic and ready for this big change.
- This project is ambitious and those who resist will make success difficult.

9 GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR THE 1:1 LAPTOP INITIATIVE

1. All students must have appropriate tools, software, and access to 21st century skills. Different programs will be necessary for different grade levels.
2. The curriculum should be 21st century-infused with skills necessary for living and working in an ever-changing society.
3. Teachers must create instructional an environment and use higher-order cognitive skills to construct meaning or knowledge. Students must engage in disciplinary inquiry.
4. Successful professional development is a must! Teachers must be taught to be trainers.
5. Pre-service teachers must experience good technology models, have access to laptops, and have field experience with opportunities to teach in a 1 to 1 environment.
6. Students and teachers must have access to rich multimedia and internet resources.
7. Laptop hardware and software must be sufficient to allow students to be creators of content, not merely consumers of content.
8. Tech support procedures must be good enough so there are minimal disruptions.
9. Students should be given the opportunity to demonstrate 21st century skills through the use of tech-infused authentic assessment.

* * *

I found this presentation to be inspiring. Sure, it is a way for apple to sell computers, but it is also a fantastic opportunity for us to teach our students in the best and most effective way possible. For more information, visit the website <http://www.apple.com/education/onetoone/>