

Hopkinton School District

204 Maple Street - Contoocook, NH 03229 - (603) 746-5186 - FAX (603) 746-5714

To: Mr. Chamberlin and the Hopkinton School Board
From: Matthew Stone
Date: April 1, 2011
Re: Report from the Technology Director

Family and Student Portals

At the start of the second semester, we opened the family and students portals to all members of the middle and high schools. This was a culmination of much work of the HMHS office staff and Karen Pond, our data specialist. I am pleased to report that our parents/guardians have reported very few problems, and that feedback from parents, students and teachers has been quite positive. We have heard many anecdotes about increased rates of homework completion with increased oversight of grades. Teachers also have more information about student work outside their own class.

We have also used the portal for efficiency. Student course signups for next year are being done online, saving the guidance office the numerous hours of hand-entering student requests. As we look to the future, we are looking at adding additional information to the portal, though attendance and grade info will remain the primary use. I am working with the guidance office to show graduation requirements in the portal, so that parents and students can track their progress towards completion of the requirements. Another key goal is working with X2 to get better data about who is accessing the system. We expect that the next system upgrade will help to address the reporting issue.

Summer Plans

As I have previously described, the summer is normally the busiest time of the year for the technology staff. The budget uncertainty that Mr. Chamberlin has repeatedly described means that our summer plans have been cut back. If there are funds available to do a normal equipment deployment, it may happen after the start of school. I am working on various purchase plans based on available funds. Those plans generally use the following as a priority system:

- 1) Critical system infrastructure, such as needed server and network upgrades.
- 2) Equipment for operational staff, such as central office, nurses and facilities.

- 3) Support for existing academic program. Where appropriate, we are replacing desktops with laptop/netbook/tablets as needs allow. This includes support for the library media centers, as they remain critical to growing the capabilities of staff and students.
- 4) Growth in support for classroom technology; computers, projectors, interactive whiteboards, classroom response systems.

At the same time, we are seeking to increase the use of technology as basic part of instruction and assessment. We have made strides by deploying additional whiteboards and projectors over the last year, but have much room for improvement.

Technology Plan

The Technology Committee remains working on the three year district technology plan. This plan includes a roadmap for technology acquisition and changes to district procedures. One area of much discussion has been about ways to increase classroom use of technology in a time of budget constraints. We are looking to permit and encourage students to use their own equipment in class. This would also include a new Responsible Use Policy to make clear that students must use any technology in class for academic purposes. Implementation of this plan would be after we have upgraded the wireless networks in the buildings to handle the additional load. We need also consider changes to classroom climate as part of this initiative; we would seek lessons and advice from the schools that have implemented 1:1 laptop programs.

Respectfully submitted,

Matthew Stone