

# 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:** October 29, 2010

**Re:** Report from the Technology Director

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## **Start of Year**

With the summer work time ended, the tech staff faces the start of school with a mixture of pride, apprehension and exhaustion. After completing a very large replacement cycle (larger due to a new three year extended purchase agreement), we began to ready classrooms and finish projects. Due to some extended staff absences, we did not complete several of the projects, leading to a busy and difficult start to school. We have struggled to clear a backlog of help requests, but are now back to full staffing and close to normal work levels. We have deployed over 100 new desktops, laptops and netbooks to every school as part of the replacement cycle. Two new Promethean interactive whiteboards have been ordered and should be installed by the time of the meeting.

On a brighter note, the start of year Measures of Academic Progress testing went flawlessly. This computer-based test is given to all students in grades 3-6 and establishes a baseline in reading and mathematics. In the spring, those students will retake the test; students in grades 7-9 take it once during the spring.

## **Budget Focus**

The Technology Committee discussed goals for this year's budget. One continuing goal is to increase the integration of technology into classroom instruction. After many discussions with staff, we identified classroom access to laptops and projectors as the best value in bringing in additional technology.

The proposed technology budget includes expanding the number of teacher laptops and mounted projectors at all buildings. We have mounted projectors in seven elementary classrooms so far. We were able to assign laptops to each teacher who has a mounted projector.

We continue to evaluate new technology for student and classroom use. With all of the buzz behind tablet and slate form factors, we expect to evaluate new products for educational value as they come out. We have seen other schools using touch interfaces effectively, especially with younger students. Since we also

are looking at putting mobile and personal technology in the hands of students, current developments in handheld computing is very exciting,

### **Tech Plan**

The Technology Committee is working on revising the three-year district technology plan. This plan is a roadmap of the direction and plans for hardware, software, professional development and personnel to support the educational mission of the district. As part of that effort, we will be revising procedures surrounding student technology use, as well as providing guidance to teachers around student use of interactive online services.

Respectfully submitted,

Matthew Stone