

1. ***What is the purpose of this project?*** While the project obviously will bring additional technology to every high school student, the project is not about computers. This project is about providing unlimited access to learning for all students, enabling teachers with resources to engage students in challenging lessons, and equipping students with the skills needed for the future.
2. ***When did planning for the project begin?*** Initial research into the possibility of a 1:1 computing initiative began in August 2009 through a small but active district committee. Only after much research, visits to other districts with similar projects, budgeting, and cost projections by the committee did the superintendent feel confident to present the proposal to the Board of Education for their consideration in May 2010. The initiative was passed unanimously by the Board of Education.
3. ***What is the long-term plan for this project?*** The laptop project is being launched using a four-year timeline. After four years, a new lease agreement will be negotiated to continue the project on a four-year cycle. Money is being allocated each year by the board to provide adequate funding to maintain the project as a permanent approach to instruction.
4. ***What will the laptop project be called?*** A student contest will be held to determine the name and possible logo for the project. The advisory committee will select finalist entries, and the winner will be selected by a vote of the high school students. The entry deadline is September 17. The top prize is an iPod Touch or \$200 cash! Click [HERE](#) for contest details.
5. ***When will students receive their laptops?*** Tentatively, seniors will receive their laptops the week following fall break, with juniors and sophomores receiving theirs immediately after the seniors, possibly within the same week. Freshmen will receive their laptops in January 2011 at the beginning of the second semester.
6. ***Exactly what type of laptops will be issued to students?*** With the exception of a few students with Individual Education Plans (IEPs) which provide otherwise, all students will receive a Dell Latitude 2110 Netbook. These units offer much of the functionality of a full-size laptop in the convenience of a smaller platform. Click [here](#) for technical details.
7. ***What other items will be issued with the laptops?*** The laptops will also be issued with an always-on case, power cord, power supply, ear buds, two identification cards, and upon request a network cable for home use.
8. ***Are the student laptops going to be the same as the set of “mini” laptops that the school libraries currently have?*** No, while they are similar technology, they are considerably larger and much faster and offer more functionality.
9. ***What software will the students have on their laptops?*** The laptops will have Windows 7 Professional, Microsoft Office 2010 (including OneNote), McAfee virus protection, Adobe Acrobat Reader, various instructional software, and selected program plug-ins.

- 10. Do the computers come with a case?** Yes, every computer will be in an “always-on” case designed specifically for the Dell Latitude 2110. The highly protective case includes a shoulder strap, business card pocket for identification, and zippered pocket for the power supply. The case is designed to remain on the computer at all times and should not be removed.
- 11. Will students only be able to use their laptops during the school day?** With the exception of some students with exceptional learning needs, all students will have access to their computers 24 hours per day, 7 days per week (24/7). Students who abuse this privilege or their computers may have their access limited to daytime use only for a period of time or perhaps the entire year. However, the goal is for all students to have use of their computers 24/7 from the time they are issued until the end of the school year.
- 12. Why would I want to take the laptop home if I don’t have internet access?** There are at least three reasons: 1) Microsoft Office 2010 includes many productivity tools which students can use to organize and prepare coursework without internet access. 2) Students will be provided time each day to download any necessary file attachments to their laptops that may be needed. 3) Wireless “hot spots” will be made available near the parking area at the high school and each elementary school so that students may connect to the internet outside any school in the district after regular school hours.
- 13. Is the computer protected by school insurance when used at home?** Yes, the computers are covered by both an extended warranty and complete care package which should cover most any repair except those due to neglect, abuse, or theft. In the event of unrecovered theft or total loss of a computer, the district’s property insurance is secondary to any coverage parents/guardians may have through homeowners or renters insurance.
- 14. Will pencil and paper assignments still be used?** Yes, of course. The use of laptop computers will greatly change the teaching and learning process over time. Meanwhile students will continue to use pencil, paper, textbooks, and other resources in addition to their laptops. As the project progresses, students and teachers alike will develop skill in using a broad range of technology tools for maximum learning opportunities through a balanced approach.
- 15. How will the laptop project change teaching at the high school?** For several years, all students in Hart County have benefitted from interactive classrooms with ACTIVboards, projectors, DVD/VCRs, audio systems, document cameras, and student response systems (or “clickers.”) The addition of laptops at the high school will allow students to access information on-demand—both independently and as part of specific class activities and assignments. Over time, the use of laptops will allow students and teachers to individualize instruction, engage in a broader range of learning activities, and assess learning in different ways.
- 16. What measures will be in place to protect students from inappropriate content on the internet?**

In addition to continuing to use the “proxy server” which records all internet activity, a new network appliance will be in place which will allow greater ability to protect students since it both identifies and blocks inappropriate websites through keywords and web traffic patterns. More importantly, this solution includes a client on the laptop that provides this same protection whether the computer is used at school, home, or any internet connection.

- 17. *What technical permissions will students have on their laptops?*** Students will have administrative rights on their assigned computers, which will both enable them to install appropriate programs as well as demonstrate responsibility for caring for their computers. Students will be assigned the same laptop each year they are enrolled at the high school.
- 18. *How will student laptops be distributed?*** After the appropriate signed permission forms have been submitted and the student use fee has been paid, laptop orientation will be provided to students in small groups during the school day. Laptops will be distributed directly to students at the end of the orientation session. Laptops will not be distributed during the parent orientation session; however, a \$25 reduction in the computer use fee will be made when at least one parent or guardian attends a parent orientation session.
- 19. *Who is involved in implementing the project?*** All high school teachers—those most directly involved in the day-to-day implementation—have benefitted from three days of training on technology integration, and support will continue through bi-weekly meetings and other approaches. D.L. Talley (computer technician) will coordinate technical support for the student laptops. Lisa Willian (curriculum-instruction-technology specialist) will provide technical and instructional support. Alison Wiediger (network administrator) and Wesley Waddle (district technology coordinator/assistant superintendent) are heavily involved in technical issues and logistics of the project. Central office personnel (Ricky Line, Debbie Fowler, Angela Frank, Carl Stoltzfus, and Wesley Waddle) will provide follow-up support to teachers. In addition, an advisory committee is in place to provide input and guidance throughout the first year of implementation. This committee consists of Ricky Line (superintendent); Ginger Nichols and Melissa Sturgeon (parents); Heather Huff, Aaron Shepperd, Courtney Vance, and Antwan Williams (students); John Burd, Jose Gonzalez, and Deanna Vance (teachers); Chris Mueller (principal); and D.L. Talley, Alison Wiediger, Lisa Willian, and Wesley Waddle.
- 20. *What student fees are required?*** The advisory committee recommended a nominal student use fee which students will pay each year. At a special meeting in August, the Board of Education adopted the recommended fee of \$50—with the provision that the fee be reduced to \$25 for students whose parent/guardian attend one of the parent orientation sessions. This is the only fee that most students will pay. For students who neglect or abuse their laptop, however, additional repair fees will apply.
- 21. *Will there be training for parents?*** Yes. An orientation session will be provided for all parents. The 45-minute session will be offered at numerous and varying times prior to and during fall break. The session will provide information on student responsibilities in caring for the laptops, how they will be used as part of instruction, technical tips, and appropriate use. Each orientation will also include a question/answer session. A \$25 reduction in the

student use fee will be made for students whose parent/guardian attend a parent orientation session.

- 22. *When will the orientation for parents occur?*** Numerous sessions will be scheduled during the school day, after school, and during evening hours to accommodate parents' varying schedules. Sessions for parents of sophomores, juniors, and seniors will begin in September and continue through fall break. Sessions for freshman parents will be held later in the fall semester. Additional sessions will be held as needed for parents of newly enrolled students. The session schedule can be located at [www.hart.kyschools.us/onetoone.htm](http://www.hart.kyschools.us/onetoone.htm).
- 23. *Must students attend the orientation session with their parents/guardians?*** Students are encouraged to attend the session with their parent(s)/guardian(s) if they select an after school session, but they are not required to do so.
- 24. *What training will students receive?*** Before laptops are distributed, students will participate in an orientation session which addresses basic computer care, appropriate use, and technical issues. Student orientation sessions will occur during the school day.
- 25. *What is Moodle?*** Moodle is the name of the online interface or program that all students will use as a starting point for each class. While every department, or in some cases each teacher, will use the laptops to deliver different types of learning activities, Moodle will provide "one-stop shopping" for access to class information, links, and assignments. Moodle also provides a secure environment for student work and assignments, meaning only teachers and students can access the content.
- 26. *Who is responsible if a laptop is damaged?*** If the damage is the result of normal use, there will be no cost to the student or parent/guardian, unless there is a recurring pattern of questionable use or repairs. *However, if damage occurs as the result of neglect, deliberate misuse, or intentional action, the student and parent/guardian are responsible for repair fees ranging from \$25 to \$800 depending on the nature of the repair.*
- 27. *What warranty is provided for the laptops?*** Every laptop has a four-year, on-site warranty in addition to four years of "complete care coverage" which also covers repairs due to normal use.
- 28. *Will "spare" laptops be available when a computer is out for repair?*** Yes, a significant number of computers will be available to provide students a loaner laptop when computer repairs are necessary on their assigned computers. However, it is important to note that students will need to keep current backups of important files using a flash drive, network drive, or online resource (such as a sky drive).
- 29. *What technical support will be available for this project?*** Within the high school, a new position has been provided for a Computer Technician to specifically support this project. In addition, after the first laptops are distributed, the school will soon after begin a "student help desk." Information on becoming part of the student help desk will be provided during the student orientation. The high school's curriculum-instruction-technology (CIT) specialist

will also provide technical and instructional support. In addition, the district will provide support through the network administrator and assistant superintendent.

- 30. *Can parents get specific information about students' use of the laptops?*** Yes, the network appliance which will minimize access to inappropriate content includes a wide variety of reporting options. If teachers, administrators, or parents have questions or concerns related to internet activity, they can obtain additional information by calling the central office at 524-2631 and asking for [Alison Wiediger](#) or [Wesley Waddle](#).
- 31. *Will the high school's current wireless system support 750 student laptops?*** Not currently, but the existing system is being completely replaced. Over 60 access points will be installed throughout the building using the latest wireless technology.
- 32. *What measures will be in place to prevent computers from being lost or stolen?*** All laptops are provided with a CompuTrace license—security software which safeguards against theft and aids speedy recovery if a computer is lost or stolen (see question #33). In addition, the following components will be permanently identified by serial number: case, laptop, battery, power supply, and power cord. Students will also receive a second identification card to carry in their wallet, purse, etc. so that they may easily identify their laptop if it is lost or stolen.
- 33. *What occurs if a computer is lost or stolen?*** The CompuTrace software tracks the geographic location of every computer. If a computer is stolen, the theft will be reported to local law enforcement and CompuTrace. In addition to pursuing felony charges for theft over \$300, the CompuTrace software will force the stolen unit to make electronic contact every 15 minutes until located. If a unit is simply lost, contact will be made through CompuTrace, but if the laptop is not quickly recovered, the same steps for theft recovery will apply.
- 34. *What will happen to the current computers at the high school?*** Some of the existing desktop and laptop computers will be used to upgrade computers in identified areas of the high school. Some computers designed for specialized tasks, such as journalism, broadcasting, and CAD will remain in place. All other computers will be distributed for use at the elementary schools based on student enrollment.
- 35. *Will students be able to purchase their computer at the end of the year?*** At the end of the four-year lease, 2010-2011 freshmen will have the option of purchasing their laptops for a very small fee. For currently enrolled seniors, at the end of the year, Dell will provide a quote based on the current market value of the computers at that time. Students will have 30 days from receipt of the quote to purchase the computer at that time if they wish to do so.
- 36. *How is the project being funded?*** This project is being funded primarily through the general fund budget by the Board of Education. A small portion of the project, less than 5 percent, will be supported through categorical grants, such as Title IID and KETS (state technology funds). No special, one-time funds are being used to fund the project. ARRA (stimulus

funds) did allow the district to save money in other areas during the last school year; these savings helped offset the start-up costs of the project this year.

- 37. *How will funds for this project impact other areas, such as staffing and technology?*** No funding areas have been reduced in preparation for this project. The staffing formula for all schools has remained the same as in past years; technology funding to schools has been maintained; and no funds from other major sources, such as Title I, have been budgeted for this project.
- 38. *How will the student fees for computers be used?*** The student use fees are not included in the budget as a primary source of funding to support or continue the project. The student fees will assist with some basic operating costs (such as replacement batteries, printer toner, etc.) and also help students realize the personal responsibility they have for caring for the laptops.
- 39. *How can I learn more about the laptop project?*** Periodic updates will be provided on the district website at [www.hart.kyschools.us](http://www.hart.kyschools.us), or you may follow the project on Twitter (HCHSLaptops). In addition, questions may be directed to the Advisory Committee or [Laptop Q&A](#).
- 40. *Will the laptop connect to my home network/internet?*** Yes, the student laptops wireless cards can easily connect to home networks and public wi-fi. Upon request, students will be provided with a network cable if needed for a wired connection.
- 41. *Will laptops be checked out to students over the summer, too?*** It will be mandatory to turn in all laptops at the end of the school year for inventory and technical purposes as they are prepared for use the following school year. However, students needing laptops for specific educational purposes during the summer may request to check out computers during the summer.
- 42. *What preventive maintenance will be provided for laptops?*** Software updates will be distributed to laptops across the school network. Laptops will be randomly selected each week for diagnostic review and inspection for appropriate use.
- 43. *What if I have concerns or suggestions?*** Input and suggestions from every source are encouraged and will be appreciated. Questions can be directed to any member of the Advisory Committee or submitted to [Laptop Q&A](#).