

# Williamsburg High School

## 1:1 Laptop Initiative Project

### General Information and FAQs

#### **What is the reason for implementing a 1:1 initiative?**

One of the Williamsburg Board of Education's goals is to improve teaching and learning with technology. The 1:1 laptop initiative levels the playing field for all students to become 21<sup>st</sup> century learners. We believe technology can enhance both teaching and learning.

#### **Is there any research to support the implementation of laptops?**

Our teacher tech team and staff have studied 1:1 research and implementation models throughout the United States. The benefit of a laptop initiative is best achieved by means of a blended learning environment. This includes effective teaching strategies coupled with technology integration within the classroom setting. A computer will not improve student achievement alone. With all components in place the research also shows the following:

- Improved writing and reading scores
- Increased student interest in learning
- Reductions in student referrals
- Increased creativeness and project based assessments
- Improved student attendance
- Access to information outside of the textbook and school walls

#### **What is the \$70 Student Tech Fee used for?**

Over a two year period, the district will have invested over \$400,000 for the purchase of laptop computers for high school student use. An additional \$35,000-\$40,000 has been invested in adding additional broadband width and upgrading the wireless infrastructure to manage an additional 400 laptops.

The \$70 technology fee will generate about \$28,000. These fees will be used towards maintaining the wireless infrastructure, filtering and software licensing fees, and additional staff time for troubleshooting hardware and software problems.

#### **Can my child use his/her own laptop/iPad at school?**

No. A student will not be able to use their own device at school for the following reasons:

- When using school issued laptops, all students and teachers have the same hardware and software, e.g. to allow for collaborative projects and seamless communication.
- The district is not permitted to install school-licensed software on computers that are not owned by the district.
- Standardization allows our IT staff to be much more effective and efficient in troubleshooting problems.

- Network and policy updates and programs can be "pushed out" to devices on the Williamsburg Community Schools Network.
- Child Internet Protection Act (CIPA): This Federal Law states that schools must block or filter Internet access and monitor the online activities of minors. The district is using an iBoss Filter for all laptops. Our monitoring system requires students to log onto the Williamsburg Network; when logged on, the district can easily monitor and document any website accessed by individual users.
- The District will no longer allow wireless access to other devices which are not school issued including but not limited to: iPods, iPads, SmartPhones, etc.

### **Will the Internet Filter keep my child safe when he/she is online?**

The District is using the iBoss Web Filter. This filter blocks many sites including Facebook, Twitter and sites using certain key words. While the district can not ensure 100% safety, we encourage parents to communicate with an administrator if they find their child on an unsafe site.

### **Will the Williamsburg Jr/Sr High School Wireless configuration be able to accommodate 400 laptops?**

Bandwidth was upgraded last year. Wireless devices have been upgraded over the summer to allow more devices. We have also worked with Apple and a wireless vendor to ensure we have the wireless system is ready for 1:1. Part of this process is password protecting the wireless system for both guest and building access.

### **Does the school district expect every family to purchase internet service at home?**

No. Students will normally have everything needed on the laptop to complete an assignment. Teachers will give time in class for assignments needing internet access. Students will be encouraged to use this time wisely when internet access is not available at home.

### **Can my child use their backpack or another computer bag to carry their computer?**

No. We would ask the students use the school issued bag for this year.

### **Can my child decorate or personalize the laptop and/or carrying case?**

Students may use skins to decorate the laptop. Stickers, markers, glue, bedazzles, etc cannot be used on the laptop or the carrying case.

### **Does my child have to take a laptop home?**

No. A family can ask the school district to keep the student laptop in a secured place after school hours. If this decision is made, the student is required to bring the laptop to the secure location every night. If a student forgets, he/she is liable any loss or damage to the computer.

### **If my child is in athletics, how can he/she keep her computer secure?**

- All athletic coaches should issue combination locks to the students. It is the student's responsibility to secure the laptop in the locker with the door locked.
- Athletes grades 10-12 can keep their laptop in their locker during practice.
- In the event of an away contest, we will work with other districts to place the laptops in a secure area during the event. The school bus will not be considered a secure area.

### **Can students download programs to their laptop?**

No. Any programs issued to school computers will be pushed out to our students using the Casper Suite.

### **Can my child use iTunes to download music?**

Yes. A student can use an existing iTunes account or create an account on iTunes. All purchases will be at the expense of the student or parent. Students are asked to have NON-EXPLICIT music downloaded at all times.