

## MIDDLE SCHOOL PARENTS

We found that we needed to pay for wireless internet access at home for our child to be able to update and complete assignments, so this is an added monthly expense. Our child is finding middle school more engaging than elementary school, but laptops are very minimally involved in any work done at home, and most assignments are not computer-based and do not (at least in work completed at home) appear to incorporate technology, even when doing so would eliminate some disparities in family income and educational background for completing projects. Monitoring computer activities at home has become quite time-consuming. It appears to our family that middle school students are engaging in extensive social and non-academic uses of computers in large part because they have individual laptops available 24/7.

Although the laptop program has been a great opportunity for my son to improve upon his computer skills, the program has not been without problems. To start with, his adapter was taken from class by someone else & I had to pay \$105 for a new adapter. When his laptop kept crashing, he took it to tech services who kept it for a month & because he was so reliant on it for checking his assignments he missed a few deadlines. This point was highlighted by a Shorecrest HS teacher who said that they have moved away from the iCal because the students have become so reliant on it. They want the students to be able to remember when assignments are due & also interact with the teachers more so that they actually have a relationship with their teacher & not the laptop. Also, as we have no wireless internet connection at home, we would have to download from our home computer & upload onto our son's laptop when he was researching assignments. This was cumbersome. Overall, it is a good program but I would recommend use of the laptop at school only & encourage the students to have organizers to organize their assignments. I think this would improve upon their memory skills, make them less dependent on the laptops (especially when they don't work) & increase their interaction with their teachers.

The laptop program is great but there is need for a strict/limited internet access. Only academic sites should be available and the ability of the laptop to download and play music should be very controlled. Most students are way more computer savvy than the parents and this creates problems as they explore sites that are not permissible by parents without being caught. I think it is inappropriate for middle school kids to hang out at myspace.com with these laptops and parents to not know it. I feel uncomfortable about this as a parent!

The reason I choose to continue with 24/7, is partly selfish-I would prefer not to have to share the family laptop with our child as I would find myself unable to use it for large chunks of time!

We think the laptop program is fantastic. We just love it!

The only issue with the laptops is internet access and use not related to school. They have become tools for television watching, games as well as for school work. It is fully appreciated that it is the parents' responsibility to monitor this activity, but it becomes just another conflict.

If they could increase controls over recreational use of the laptop (IM / MySpace etc) than students would spend a lot less time flipping back and forth from their real work into recreational frenzy which takes up more of their time.

The visibility provided by having a continuous home/school computing environment is worth so much to us that when our son mentioned Shoreline was considering changing the program we halted our efforts to buy a Shoreline home to find out more. If this program goes away, we will consider whether it's worth 30-60k more + higher taxes to buy in Shoreline. I hope there will be some visibility to the districts likely direction sooner than later.

Laptop is a horrible distraction. It is seductive and addictive, and a major source of conflict at home. Unsecure wifi is available everywhere. Parental Controls on content and usage are easily hacked by kids.

I think the computers are great but the homework should be less Internet- dependent. Students are no longer learning how to find resources outside of the Internet. We don't have easy Internet access at home so sometime my child has to spend hours at the library just in order to get on the Internet to complete assignments.

Laptop/computers are used in every business. Literacy of the computer is vital to our kids so they can compete with others who have this skill set. Shoreline school kids have a better chance of success after graduation and onto college or employment with the language of computers embedded into their everyday lives. It's one less thing they will have to learn outside of highschool.

Please cease and desist with the lap top program immediately. What my student has learned: how to get around all controls. How to chat. How to spend any and all hours playing games. \*\*Absolutely nothing academic, aside from what he has learned about how computers work by learning how to get around all the controls. I understand that it is my responsibility to control his access. However, he's 13, and often home alone, particularly right after school. If it were our own computer, I could have some control. Because it is a school computer, I cannot limit its use if I'm not there after school. The academic work that is done is so rare, and so easily done elsewhere (home or library) that no one should be pretending that's why students have lap tops. A teacher told me "we can't assign work on a lap top, because someone's is always broken" Also, because it is broken, my student has not had one for nearly 4 months now, and it has made no difference. Also, the expense is large, even for a middle class family like ours. First the case (which is useless after 2 years). Then the insurance, that was \$120 for 2 years, no small amount to our family. Then since of course it was damaged each year, that's another \$200 we can't afford. Total cost: \$336, so my student could learn to chat and play games. That price is way too high. This seems to be a program to make Shoreline "look good" with no academic purpose. Please, do not spend nay more on this program, remove these machines from the district, and get back to your mission: education.

I will like to see more hand written projects.

Last year the laptops were more distracting to my kids than this year, however, they are still pretty distracting. I think after some time has gone by and once they're more integrated into each teacher's lessons, their value will be more evident.

The ability to check for homework has been made the laptop a critical resource. There are times where my son may go on all day "band" performance and this allows him to stay current on his assignments.

I provide a computer and internet at home for my child. My child cannot access the internet on the school's laptop because we do not have a wireless router. I refuse to pay an additinal \$40 for this so as he can use his computer when he can easily use his home computer. I have 2 sons that have been in this laptop program and niether have used the computer at home for their schoolwork and have managed good grades and organization. My middle school son is currently in 2 honors classes and takes school very serious. Knowing how to write an essay with good old pen and paper is what my student needs help with, not how to type a paper with computerized help.

The best use of the laptop was in science class where the students had access to models and information they wouldn't have otherwise.

If they have access to the internet at home they can get their assignments and access the teacher's ical. The student ical is beneficial if they use it; in my case they don't as well as they could. The biggest use is for chatting. The more stringent controls this year were a huge help.

a shame because I'd vote for them in school but i asked about not signing one out and was told no, it is policy that all must register for one. Is that the way you guys get money. What a system. Anyone who wants one at home should have one but people who don't, why must they sign one out. That is unfair. There is some good about program but you are making it terrible system.

Since receiving a laptop child has lost interest in all other non-school activites. Have had difficulty using parental controls to limit use. As neighbors have wireless internet, she can receive internet services even

though we have refused to have internet service in our home. I would very strongly advocate for ditching the laptops at home and just allowing students use at school.

While we do monitor our student closely, it has become a constant battle. We prefer to focus our energies elsewhere, rather than dealing with regular laptop issues. We do see their value, just not at home on a regular basis.

I think the laptop program is a huge success. My child has become very knowledgeable about her laptop and has used it to create some very interesting presentations for her classes. I think having the laptops is a huge benefit to the students.

Overall, the laptops are great. I think for some of the students, they are more of a distraction. I still hear stories of kids playing games during class. I don't know how you can stop the bad behavior. The ability to see what assignments are missing and check on grades weekly is fantastic!

All I hear from many teachers is how the laptops are disruptive and we certainly agree from a home perspective. They will never be taken full advantage of as personal devices. At work if my employees play games and I chat to the detriment of their work we don't make a decision about the desktop or laptop, the worker is history. Why do you allow kids to get away with this?

I love that this year you changed the settings on the laptops so that they shut down at 11 pm. I also like that they only have 5 hrs. on the weekends. My kids are both honors students and this is a very reasonable amount of time for them to complete their work and still have time for extra "play" if they so desire. We chose not to have the restrictions lifted because, again, it gives us more control of the laptops and also, if they need more than three hours daily and five hours on Sat/Sun then something is wrong with the program. So far, they've been able to complete all laptop-related work.

I think the laptop program is such a great program. I know we are very fortunate to have this available to our child. We could not afford a laptop at home and I really think it helps with homework and organizing. I did not know about the preset parental controls. It was probably shared but I somehow missed it. I would recommend full access to the laptop but with only a limited number of internet hours available such as shut down internet at 10:00 pm. The kids could still study on word or check to see what homework is due. I would also suggest that kids be allowed/encouraged to send in their assignments to teachers when they are able to complete them on line. It would save resources (paper) and we sometimes have problems with our old printer in our home. I want to thank Kellogg and SCC district for providing this resource.

Our district needed the money that went to laptops to help keep classroom sizes small and keep schools open. I resent not having an option to not have a laptop. The first month of school created several discussions in our home about the need to turn the laptop off. My son uses the laptop mostly for non-school activities while at home. We have a computer, and don't need a laptop. The peer pressure to have a laptop will create a have and have not atmosphere. I like being able to track assignments and grades. I don't need the laptop to do so.

I believe in the value of the laptop program. I don't think the teachers are utilizing the resource as effectively as they could. I don't see the value of the laptop at home if you don't have a wireless network. I don't like the restricted access time that was placed on the laptop this year.

The weight of the laptop and carrying back and forth, plus around, school is an issue for us since my daughter is small and the weight of it, plus heavy books, is noticeable. It is discouraging when she brings it but none of her teachers that day have the class use it. There is not enough time, nor is it convenient, to use the lockers.

The student laptop is unique to Shoreline and has generated enthusiasm for school. Computers are a necessary tool and mode of communication and production the use of the laptop this year has given my daughter a head start to the successful and productive use of technology, is building her confidence and she enjoys the laptop. research validates that enjoyment increases learning! I appreciate greatly your trust in

our students to issue each a valuable piece of equipment-this laptop, this trust you have for my daughter and our students does not go unnoticed by our students. THANK YOU

My child's success in school is directly related to access to a laptop at home. It has also tremendously helped in keeping her work organized. Please continue this program.

This year was better than last year, with regards to overall usage. Please consider tech support funding as a \*HIGH\* priority for the foreseeable future. The computers are getting well used, and they \*need\* tech support!!!

Nice in theory, poorly designed in practice. I know for sure a substantial percent of students use school laptops primarily for non-academic purposes. Usage limitations via the MacMinder is easily and extensively hacked by the student body. The program sets up parents as appearing unreasonable for limiting laptop usage. If anything, at-home laptop access has introduced the single biggest distraction FROM academic work, home responsibilities, and physical exercise.

## HIGH SCHOOL PARENTS

I have noticed that the lure of the computer has competed with our daughter's reading. They both used to read a lot more for pleasure than they do now. Since we have several computers at home, I'm not sure if taking away the school laptops would reverse this situation but I do know that the laptops take up much of their spare time.

I think the laptop program is great. The only problems we've had with it are based on my child's own poor decision making and organizational skills. That is the basis for any low-scoring answers I have given.

I would like to see the parental controls more user friendly - easier to access with more freedom for parents to choose when and what our children do on the laptops. Right now I just monitor my children because I don't know how to use the parental controls. I was told I needed to go to the school to do that. Tech support was too busy at the beginning of the year, so I never did that.

Of 30 kids our daughter runs with, very few use this for school. Only when necessary but mainly for play. I don't know of a parent who wants this as it is so why do we still have it???

Most parents really have no idea what their child is doing with the laptop. That is fact. Laptops supplied by the district are a wonderful, appropriate tool, for high school juniors and seniors.

I think the program has been very beneficial to my son. While he does spend time on it surfing, it is teaching him the mechanics that he will need to succeed in the outside world. He has learned how to type by using the computer. He helps me to learn new things and I ask him for assistance when I have a problem with a program or something. I am glad the program is here and I hope that it continues.

This program seems frivolous as most students have access to home computers and home internet access. Simply providing jump drives and easy access to computers at school seems much more sensible. Also, most homes don't have Apple PCs so when children bring home Apples rather than those MS Windows machines, these parents are at a severe disadvantage to help kids on their computers when they need technical support or support with the more common MS Office type software.

My student spends more time playing on his laptop during class than paying attention to what is being instructed. I would like to see this school district get rid of the laptops. I believe they are too much of a temptation for our student. They have not benefitted our student at all. Actually, he obtained better grades before the laptops were distributed. These laptops have promoted a lot of angst in our family. They sneak them at night after we have gone to bed which makes them tired and cranky for the next day. They lie about what they are actually doing on them and they fight with each other over them (I figured out how to download . . . and I'm not going to tell you how to do it). The only good thing about the laptops are that they level the playing field for those students who do not have a computer at home or who are unable to use the libraries.

Student's who take School seriously gain the most with this program.....the other's who do not, simply play on it gaining no academic strength.

The laptops are extremely helpful tools for students. They allow access to the plethora of study websites on the internet. It is great when students need to study for AP tests or SAT's.

Whereas most homework is completed with the use of the laptop, we suspect the laptop is used far too much for non-academic purposes. We as parents both do not know how to monitor this behavior and we are very concerned about it.

When we have the school computers - we have 5 Apple computers and 5 members of the family. It has been helpful that our 3 children don't have to share one computer for all their homework. Our oldest daughter is a senior and sometimes the limited # of hours for use is frustrating when she is working on a

project over the weekend. She would also like to have WORLD BOOK ENC. software put on the high school computers too - not just middle school. Thanks for the chance to have input.

I would like to see the use of heavy text books reduced now that they kids have laptops. The pounds they have to carry to and from school everyday is unreasonable. Also, my daughter has experienced a lot of technical difficulties with her laptop, more last year than this year (so far). You should implement a "lemon laptop" policy, and retire laptops that are unreliable. Several times last year my daughter had to use a "loaner" for several weeks at a time. It was very inconvenient.

Laptops are wonderful, but we need the continual technical support for all Shoreline students to maximize their effectiveness. Content of instruction should not be hindered to provide technical instruction. Now that we are committed by the purchase of said laptops, we as a District need to assure that all students know how to use them, even as they move up from elementary. We need the technology support. Thank you.

Bottom line; kids will be kids. The laptops are helping more than they hurt.

This year has been MUCH better than the first year. Teachers are much more fluent with ways to really utilize laptops as a teaching tool and I see real teaching occurring this year. I believe this would continue to improve if the laptop access remains. Having the entire district observing the same shut off at 10:30PM has made parenting much easier and teenagers sleeping at the same time is Very Important (no more arguments about what time other families turn it off, or feeling like we are tyrants that turn it off). Yes, the first year was rough, but I would rather have the "teaching moment" while they are in high school rather than seeing them flunk first year of college because they needed to learn the self-discipline to shut it off. I believe the district teens have gotten over the infatuation now and have realized socializing is still done without the aid of a computer. For my teen, this laptop has more capability than the family computer and he has gained useful skills with the laptop. useful skills with the laptop.

The weight of the backpack is at an all time high with the laptops. Either use laptops 100% with all of their books on-line or go back to using books only and having computers in the class room.

the laptop programs gives all students equal access and tools for learning. This is a huge benefit for the community as a whole. it's up to the teachers to capitalize on the investment and leverage it to get enhanced educational value. there's not an overall level of commitment to technology for teachers.

We strongly believe laptop is a great tool for the students' education. Unfortunately, some of the students are having difficulty control themselves easily to be tempted and wonder off to the website they are not supposed to. Also, the students are spending too much time chading instead of doing their homework.

3 years is enough torture. This is a very poor education model.

I'm not sure how it's working for others but our kids have definitely benefited by the use of the laptops. Both of my kids did not want to use the laptops when they learned about the program but both changed their minds after getting used to them.

I appreciate the generosity of this program however it has made my son a laptop junkie rather than a child that uses the home desktop as needed.

Yes, as a parent I can set guidelines but then the laptop becomes a bone of contention at an age when no extra bones are needed.

I have also observed that the laptop creates an extra financial burden when repairs are needed. The \$100. may be the grocery money for the week.

I believe the high school students abuse the internet accessibility (social networking, surfing the web, etc), and the parental controls don't work. Keep the laptops out of the homes, or only on an as needed, project oriented assignement. There has been too much angst and arguements over laptop usage, and this a common theme with other parents I've talked with. The students don't take care of the laptops and how will

the district fund tech support and repairs in the coming years? This whole experience has been frustrating with little control on their parents' parts.

I fully believe in this program. It teaches responsibility and ownership of work, education, and respect of property. My son's interest in his classes has greatly improved. He is able to check his work everyday. It is teaching him accountability with a no excuses standard. The youth of today needs to be able to control his/her own environment. This program offers healthy choices for our youth to sustain that environment. We two know your heart is in the right place but don't you finally see by now that the easiest and most logical answer is to put these available in schools and let those families needing one or simply wanting one check it out. This is plain unfair and many in our circle of friends agree.

My student has begun using the laptop for more than assignments (i.e., games, music) and I find this causes him to get off track. However, if he wasn't on the laptop, he would probably be playing video games. He gets all his work done on time, fits in extracurricular activities, and keeps his grades up, so overall the access to the laptop 24/7 hasn't been detrimental.

This has been a very successful program for us. My daughter has been responsible in her use of the laptop. She is able to work on homework and projects at home, at friends homes, even when we are travelling, as at Spring Break. Her tech skills have improved. We very much support this program.

I think teachers should also get some in-service training on using technology so that the laptops are not just "paving the cow pad" and actually add value and change how teachers teach. Some have done better than others.

I believe that the students do not have enough rights with the computers. They cannot install any applications that could be useful to learning such as Adobe Photoshop™, for example. Students should be able to install 3rd party programs. I feel that the District has put unnecessary restrictions on the laptops.

make it impossible for kids to use for nonschool purposes ie no games etc or school monitor their use periodically, and consequences for illicit use

I wish they could do homework for more hours on the weekend. Love the laptop program. We don't have enough computers for the kids to do homework at the same time and school website access and sharing of information with teachers is essential.

I love the equalizing factor in everyone having laptops. It really isn't fair to the low-income kids, whose families have a tough time affording a computer, to produce lower-quality work as a result. With the number of projects that require the internet, and the fact all assignments have to be typed, it's a major handicap for a kid who doesn't have a computer at home. I've seen a number of important school projects that just couldn't be done without a computer at home.

We have had a computer in our home for most of my child's life. Although having the school laptop has encouraged teachers to teach differently and with a focus on technology, I can't say it has made a huge difference in how my child would have done without the school's laptop. I feel discontinuing this effort at this time would not be helpful for many of the students in our district. However, I feel that if they have a computer at home, they probably do not need to lug the school laptop from school to home, from class to class. There are some classes where truthfully the computer is of small use. For these classes, having the computer available for the lessons needed it a great idea. Once you have let the genie out of the bottle it is hard to put it back in. Good luck with your decision.

My student does not use his laptop very often at school. He does not like to bring it to school because of this and the extra responsibility of having it. When at home, he uses his desktop computer. He also claims that most of his friends are surfing the internet or playing games while teachers are lecturing. Makes one wonder how effective is this technology...

I believe the laptop program is successful. It opens whole new worlds when our students can research on the internet. I also really like that students have limited internet this year. It is a option that helps manage my students computer time. When students have laptops it is very difficult to monitor their computer usuage when they are in high school. Using technology has become the norm for middle and high school students. Although this is helpful for academics there is also the downside that a majority of their entertainment and social lives take place on computers. It is difficult to tease out how much school work is being done and how much emailing and game time is happening. I believe this is very dependant on your student and that some students have much more difficulty managing their time then others. I don't know how a district addresses this issue but limiting the internet to three hours has helped.

## TEACHERS

Please give me or my department a cart or two for our department to share and use when needed.

Even though there are problems, it seems easier if the kids are responsible for their own laptops, rather than the teacher being responsible for a cart of classroom laptops. Students often need to finish assignments at home.

Yes! It is a great tool for student learning. It opens up the entire world of world of ever-changing knowledge!

The program has too many flaws. I have never had a day when all my students had a working laptop. I have basically stopped using the laptops for anything except writing papers, because I lose too much learning time dealing with laptop issues. For the money spent on the laptop initiative, I am not seeing a positive payoff. We look good, but I have strong reservations as to whether the laptops have truly increased learning by students.

Need more discipline of students misuse of computer and more training on student use.

I do not use them as much as I would like because many kids are without a laptop daily...some kids' families cannot afford repairs so they go without for the rest of the year...many parents & myself find them a management headache with kids this age. I have not talked to a parent who has not had this concern...it is a battle at home. They get used more for entertainment than school work. I would prefer class sets for middle school students.

Yes, provided we still have access to TIS's in our buildings. This year has been a tremendous year of growth for my students and myself. While I am ready to do more next year, I still feel like I need the TIS support to make tech integration really successful and meaningful in my classroom - They are an invaluable resource for classroom teachers!

Computers are a reality for students and in the working world. We need to figure out how to make the laptops better integrated into the classroom.

I think each classroom should have a cart. The students are too distracted during class time; many of the neediest do not have internet/printer at home; and students with emotional problems use the computer as a way to withdraw. The advantages of research, materials, and group work could be addressed with carts. Students do not use their other intelligences when they focus on one area: technology.

We should have all students take them home. If they do not have access to a computer at home, they should be able to check one out. Instead, we should have classroom sets available for student use if a teacher WANTS to use them in his/her classroom instruction.

Losing the 1-1 laptops would be a major step backwards in the teaching/learning we are able to do in our classroom. The ease, convenience, and reliability of having 1-1 vs. check-out carts inspires me to use the laptops in new and exciting ways every day.

Yes, but WITH SUPPORT!! No company in the country would have only 2 IT people for 2,000 machines. This is the ratio we deal with at Shorewood. It is no wonder the TIS get used for all sorts of questions because there is simply not enough manpower to handle all of the student laptop issues, printing needs, large media projects and problems that come with them, as well as teacher questions, etc. ALSO...lift restrictions for teacher computers. I have had to request to enable U-tube on my computer because there are interviews in Spanish online that I want my students to see--totally appropriate, they come from news organizations and are linked to a Spanish 97-year-old woman's blog--a great place to talk to native speakers and learn about history, but restrictions make it hard to design lessons around this.

Students do not involve themselves verbally in a way that I would deem healthy. Open laptop, disengage, play games, don't communicate. I have seen it at levels 6-12

I'd be perfectly happy with carts of computers to use in my classroom, as long as checkout was an option for students who do not have computers at home. I also wish that there was an alarm system built into the computers that would go off when students are playing games, etc. I also have great concerns about the number of student laptops that seem to be "wearing out." On any given day, I have several students who do not have their own computer to use. It's also an issue when students have their computers confiscated or never had one in the first place. (I support removal of computer from the student for contract violations though.)

I am not sure what ideal monitoring practices are in place to monitor student use of proxy sites, games, illegal downloading etc. This seems to be a growing problem and is a concern (I have heard students talk about illegal downloads in class). I have not witnessed any consequences for inappropriate downloading and see that without intervention this will be a continued problem. Our current policy has rules in place, but it is difficult to follow up on some of these rules and I have not personally seen any consequences that are harsh for the students (most seem inconvenient). Students still seem to treat laptops as a right and not a privilege, which can be a problem. These problems however, do not outweigh the added benefit that the laptops can have in a classroom.

Enhances equity - the laptop program allows students who didn't have access to a computer before to not be at a disadvantage vs. kids who have computer access at home.

The blocks get in the way of using the full range of material out there....especially in social studies. Please unblock youtube...at least for teachers!!!

I believe that with the curriculum as we have right now, there is not enough technological integration to warrant laptop usage.

PLEASE just give us a class set of laptops to keep in the classroom.

It would be cheaper, easier to manage, and would solve a lot of problems. Kids would no longer think of the laptops as "theirs" and that would therefore lower lots of the fights about them. I find it frustrating that most of the uses of the laptop at home require an internet connection, so the kids who don't have their own computer at home won't have an internet connection either, and therefore still can't do their work at home. I don't see it equaling the playing field.

it would be great to have a class set, but students do NOT need 24/7 access to their very own laptop. it would help solve a lot of classroom management and theft problems too.

In this, the first year of 1 to 1 laptops the benefit to students in terms of increased learning, increased engagement in activities that foster high level thinking, and increased ownership of their own learning has far exceeded my expectations. Further, I expect that benefits to student learning next year will far exceed the benefits this year because I will be so much better at tailoring laptop use to student needs because of the experiences I am having this year.

The issue of broken and aging computers/chargers needs to be addressed. It is becoming more and more difficult to rely on the computers being functional when needed for class use.

Each teacher should have a cart in his/her classroom - they control when it is used. I am SO SICK of having students pull out their machines at every transition - even after I have told them over and over and over again to put them in cases, taken them from students and emailed home etc. Ridiculous!

There are definite issues attached to the laptop program, such as classroom management, thefts, etc. Do the positives (e.g. equal technology access for all) outweigh the negatives? Still hard to say. I believe one more year would be a good determinant of the laptop program's success.

While I love having the students have access to a lap top, I believe that it is too expensive. Within 5 years these computers will be out of date. Some make that arguement we will no longer need texts. Printing or copying everything for history or English is far more expensive than having a foundational text. The amount we spend on repairs, theft, and the original purchase is not justified. Except for the special needs students, I have not seen a huge increase in achievement. I spent more than three class periods teaching students how to format, save work, and generally use the computer. Teachers are the first line when anything is wrong.

Only if we continue to have the Tis's. Otherwise, the technology in the classroom will fall apart. We cannot be expected to know our content area and be experts in the technology too. If we don't support it, don't continue it.