

Frequently Asked Questions:

Q: Is there documented improvement for kids learning with 1-1 computers?

A: Yes, there is improvement, not drastic, but computers help kids learn in different ways and allow the teachers to focus on individual learning needs.

Q: Have you investigated Electro Sensitivity?

A: Yes. There was a Canadian [House of Commons Standing Committee](#) reporting in the Fall 2010, which addressed electro “smog” and found no cause for alarm. They will be doing more research and BCHS will continue to follow any recommendations from Health Canada and Alberta Education. There will be four wifi-access points located in the hallway ceilings.

Q: How will computers help the teachers’ pinpoint problems?

A: In the current model kids are tested at the end of the unit and then the class moves on to the next unit. With computer quizzes and focused homework the teacher sees in “real-time” who needs more help with the material before the end of session test.

Q: Are computers really necessary in Junior High?

A: Teachers voted unanimously for students to start in grade 8. Students are already using computers and having the students bring them allows for greater flexibility in the classroom.

Q: What’s in place for families that can’t afford computers?

A: We are looking for computer sponsorship through employers and having a purchase plan with local vendors. We will also have a small number of computers to sign out.

Q: How will students deal with computer issues and glitches?

A: This year we gave a group of students more access to the system to be able to solve problems. We are endeavoring to use peer support for troubleshooting.

Q: How are kids going to be using the computers in the class?

Some students will be taking notes, some may be making a video and some may be writing an essay or doing research for project based learning. The computer is just a tool to help facilitate learning. The use of computers will vary from class to class and we will have a goal of enriching student learning no matter where they are academically.

Q: How will parents know what to buy and what software is required?

A: Alberta Education has mandated the minimum software requirements. The

school will communicate minimum hardware standards. Parents then have choice about which kind of laptop or notebook to purchase. The school is recommending using free software available for download such as Open Office and Google Apps so there will no added software costs. All this information will be posted on the website.

Q: Will the student “lose” the teacher if they become dependent on computers?

A: No. The use of computers will only supplement and support the teacher’s regular class. It gives the teacher more tools and an expanded range of teaching options.

Q: Is there a recommended amount of time a student should be in front of a computer?

A: The computers will not be used throughout a whole class. Computers are a learning tool to be used to supplement a teacher’s lesson and student learning. There are option classes that may not use a computer or use one on a limited basis.

Q: What are you doing to ensure ALL the teachers are on board with Moodle?

A: We have been spending time in our Professional Development afternoons doing Teach/Share sessions with all of the teachers. We have seen great strides forward and we’ve seen great improvement. There is still a disparity across the staff (like any organization) and we are working on it.

Q: How will the computers be implemented?

A: We will be easing into the computer use. There will be both student and parent information sessions at the start of the year. Classrooms will have to be reconfigured to best facilitate computer use.