Monday, December 15, 2014

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Delia School of Canada has been at the forefront of educational technology and curriculum integration for over 12 years. The School continues to be a leader in the implementation of learning technologies in authentic, real-world applications and based on cross-curricular infusion. This philosophy sees the School constantly looking for ways to enhance or improve the quality of instruction to meet the changing dynamics of learning in a digital world.

In February 2012, the School transitioned to a 1:1 Laptop Program for Grades 7-12 using Lenovo Laptops. The rationale for a single system and single vendor approach was based on protecting the learning environment, security and safety, and standardization as a means of easing the integration of technology.

As nearly 50% of student laptops are nearing the end of their 3-year lifecycle, the School is faced with the challenge of deciding what platform and management approach to adopt for the future.

After evaluating the pros and cons, the School has decided on the following model.

1) Students whose Lenovo laptop warranty has expired will not be required to purchase a new laptop. We strongly recommend that families consider purchasing a warranty extension through Helix Systems. This will ensure the laptop is under warranty for hardware failure and accidental damage, and is eligible for onsite support. A brochure will be sent home in January.

2) New students and students wishing to replace a laptop at the end of its lifecycle no longer are required to purchase a School approved laptop from the School’s authorized vendor. Students will be able to bring to school any laptop as long as it meets the School’s minimum requirements. A copy of the minimum requirements has been attached.

3) The School will also continue to provide a School Laptop Purchase Program that will offer onsite support for families who wish to continue to receive this service. Students will be able to take the laptop to the School’s IT Department for repair and service. Based on over 12 years’ experience supporting a 1:1 initiative, the School’s IT Team highly recommends to families that they consider the benefits of on campus support. This system ensures students have these vital learning tools when needed.

Additional information will be sent home in January.

We thank you for your continuing support.

Sincerely,

Patrick Lee
Principal

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