



Dear NBPS Families,

As we bring the 2008-09 school year to a conclusion, we have been engaged in reflective discussions regarding a number of our school's existing policies and procedures. In this difficult economic time, we have recognized that some of these policies can be modified, allowing NBPS to reduce some expenses for our families.

While we understand that the use of technology is a critical part of the learning process, which contributes to the development of career related skills, we have been fighting an ongoing battle in trying to keep student laptops maintained, configured, and operating on our internal school network. This task has become extremely time consuming, expensive, and unproductive. In addition, the "big brother is watching" attitude, which is sometimes felt by our students, seems to clash with our technology utilization goals, as many students will not use the technology to its fullest potential.

New technologies, which are now available to NBPS, will permit us to end the practice of required laptop setups, while still providing your children a safe and productive learning environment. From this point forward, ***the mandate that all laptops be configured for the NBPS network is being discontinued.***

Although laptops will still be required in class, ***NBPS will be switching to a "public network style" wireless network similar to those used in hotels, airports and establishments such as Starbucks.*** This change will allow the use of technology in our curriculum, while eliminating additional configuration costs to our families. The new wireless network will provide the same great safety and security from internet threats and inappropriate content, as we have heretofore sought to provide. ***The changes being put into place will benefit our students by permitting them to use a single user account for home and school with no additional configuration costs (\$160.00 for new setup or \$85.00 for reconfiguration).***

As a consequence of this change, ***NBPS will no longer be able to routinely service student laptops in our tech center. We will, however, continue to provide the same level of support for those laptops that were purchased through the school's laptop program in past years, until the end of the computers' life span or the expiration of its warranty, whichever comes first. In addition, we will continue to provide software services such as spyware removal and software installation to all NB students at our regular hourly rate.***

Please read the **FAQ** section below for additional information. Very shortly, we will be updating the information found on the technology page of our website to reflect the new changes, as well as the minimum NBPS laptop requirements. We expect that this new policy will provide a cost savings to our families and still facilitate the use of technology in a robust academic curriculum.

Warmest Regards,

Phil Wernersbach  
**Director of Technology**



## **NB Technology Changes 2009-2010**

### **FAQ's**

#### **Should I still bring my laptop to school?**

Yes. Laptops are required for all students and necessary for research, writing assignments and testing.

#### **Should I buy a Macintosh or a Windows computer?**

This is a personal choice. Please bring what you will be most comfortable using.

#### **Will my child still be protected from inappropriate internet websites?**

Yes. We are only changing the way that student laptops connect to our wireless network. Although the student's computer will no longer be a part of the NB network, our wireless will still contain all of the gateway protection that currently exists. This includes spyware and virus filters, and IM and Email protection. New filtering techniques will be implemented as well, to guarantee a safe environment, with no additional cost to our families.

#### **Will the Tech Center still be open for repairs?**

Yes. Although we no longer require a setup for the schools network, we will still be providing support for our students. Laptops purchased through our program in past years can still be brought to our tech center for warranty hardware service. In addition, we are still available for software repair and spyware removal at our normal service rate of \$85.00 per hour.

#### **Will NB still be recommending a preferred laptop vendor?**

In short, no. However, the team from SL Powers, our past provider, has offered to continue providing our families the same great deals as in the past. They will also provide service for any laptops purchased from them. Contact information will be placed on our website.

#### **Will loaner laptops be available?**

If you still own a laptop that was purchased from our laptop program in past years, then a loaner will be provided while your laptop is in for long-term repairs. Other rentals will continue to be provided at our normal rental fee of \$25.00 per day.

\* Annual rentals are available upon request and are based on availability and financial need.

#### **Will I still have to get my laptop configured?**

No. We will no longer require any configuration to the laptop; however, students will need to register their laptop with the Tech Center in order to obtain a username and password to access the internet. Instructions for registration will be posted on our website.

### **Are students still provided with e-mail accounts?**

Yes. Every student is provided a free network account with e-mail. Information regarding e-mail accounts is given to the students at registration. Student e-mail accounts will remain active throughout the academic calendar until the student graduates.

### **What are the minimum requirements for laptops?**

#### **Suggested Minimum Computer Specifications**

<b>Platform</b>	Windows	Macintosh
<b>Processor</b>	AMD X2 or Intel Core 2 Duo or higher	G4 1.0Ghz/Intel Core 2 Duo or higher
<b>Memory</b>	2 GB or higher	2 GB or higher
<b>Hard Drive</b>	80 GB or larger	80 GB or larger
<b>Wireless</b>	Wi-Fi Certified 802.11b/g	Wi-Fi Certified 802.11b/g/n (support for WPA2)
<b>Operating System</b>	Windows XP or Vista <b>(English Language Only)**</b>	Mac OS 10.4 or newer <b>(English Language Only)**</b>
<b>Antivirus</b>	A current subscription and automatic updates is highly recommended.	A current subscription and automatic updates is highly recommended.
<b>Warranty</b>	3 years (onsite service if available)	3 years (onsite service if available)

\* Recommended to install Windows XP in a dual boot configuration. Allowing teachers to assist better in class.

If you have any further questions or require additional assistance, please feel free to contact the NB Technology Department at 954-247-0002 or email at [nbpstech@nbps.org](mailto:nbpstech@nbps.org)