

Input from Schools (Talley HS)

Technology Q&A Video

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TEACHER PERSPECTIVE:

How have laptops changed engagement in your classroom?

- **Steven Simpson, Social Studies Teacher:** Student engagement has stayed roughly the same. It sort of changed in *how* students are engaged. Some students check out on their laptops and do other stuff that isn't necessarily, like, the stuff they are supposed to be doing. Other students find it way easier to get engaged with the stuff that we're doing. It has made it so I can use different materials that are online and help students get engaged with the stuff. So, it is about the same and it sort of depends from student to student if they are engaged in what we are doing.
- **Sean Davis, PE Teacher:** Student engagement has changed with laptops because now they are able to search anything that they need to immediately. It also allows for me to add a larger educational piece and some more variety.
- **Michelle Wetlaufer, Language Arts Teacher:** I think student engagement has improved a lot. There is still - of course- people playing games or whatever on their laptops, but they were probably playing games on their phones or something previously. I think having the laptop makes it easier for them to switch back and forth between things, and also to get caught up when they are not in class.

How have you integrated digital learning with student laptops?

- **Steven Simpson, Social Studies Teacher:** So, I have moved to 100% online Google Classroom with all of my materials which means that if a student misses a day they have all the missing work right there. If students ever need to look back at what we have done, it is all right there. I

do still print some stuff because some students prefer doing things by hand. Being able to guarantee that students have a laptop has made it so I can use more interactive history. Like media and sources, which is kind of cool. The ability to just zoom in on manuscripts for example if we are looking at Primary Source documents or zoom in and browse art history galleries and things like that. So, we have been able to integrate a little bit more digital material. But Google Classroom is the biggest change

- **Sean Davis, PE Teacher:** We are currently piloting a curriculum for PE throughout all the high schools which utilizes technology. The fact that we have laptops has made that even easier. It is a particular program with certain lessons and content that students are able to access, complete, and I can grade electronically. If students are absent, they can make it up at home as well.
- **Michelle Wetlaufer, Language Arts Teacher:** Pretty much all of my classes are online now. For the most part that means that we do a lot of the same kind of stuff, just online – so that it is easier to access at home or if you are missing work. I also have been piloting a totally online curriculum this trimester.

What's the biggest benefits of student laptops?

- **Steven Simpson, Social Studies Teacher:** Absolutely the biggest benefit of 1:1 laptops is that students have access to all of their missing work. Turn-in rates for missing work have gone up massively since I have moved to Google Classroom and I have to say if I had to pick one benefit, that is the biggest one.
- **Sean Davis, PE Teacher:** The biggest benefit is again, just the access to information. If any of the students are confused about something, they can look it up. Another benefit is the kind of continuity that the other high schools are getting; so some students coming from Hazen to here, they are going to access the same content in their PE classes. It makes it so we are offering the same content regardless of the location.
- **Michelle Wetlaufer, Language Arts Teacher:** The biggest benefit, I think, is the ability for students who aren't in school when we do something to be able access that curriculum outside of school. I think it really helps keep people on track in terms of their schoolwork.

What's the biggest challenge with student laptops?

- **Steven Simpson, Social Studies Teacher:** The biggest challenge is keeping students focused. That is not super different from the past, except that instead of phones, now its laptops. Students have a tendency to wander on the internet and not do the things they are supposed to be doing. But that is not a significantly different challenge than what I had before.
- **Sean Davis, PE Teacher:** The current challenge is, while the laptops are adding to the technology, we need some more with the content: heart rate monitors for example. Because it goes in the lesson where it says, "with your heart rate monitors". As with anything new in the classrooms as well, it is just getting students used to it and getting procedures down: making sure they are bringing their laptops, where to log on, what to do, etc. Over the course of the trimester, I am seeing students are picking it up quickly because they are so smart, and it will get better as time goes on.
- **Michelle Wetlaufer, Language Arts Teacher:** The challenge I think is mainly just distraction in terms of kids are more likely to try and watch movies and stuff on their laptops instead of doing their work. If I am not super paying attention, I won't notice.

STUDENT PERSPECTIVE

How often do you use your laptop at home and at school? What do you mostly use it for?

- **Zoey, 9th Grade:** At home I use it maybe 3 out of 5 days of the week (well there's seven, but out of the school week, you know? And then at school I use it in almost every period, except for my 5th period – no computers
- **Molly, 11th Grade:** At school, I use it a little bit. But at home I use it more often.
- **Felix, 11th Grade:** I use laptop almost daily because I take an online class here and I think the laptops are really useful for students who are also taking online classes. It's also easier to catch up on work online than it is to catch up on paperwork in person for students who miss school.
- **Gianni, 12th Grade:** I don't really use my school laptop at home, but at school I use it during most of my periods because we do a lot of Google Classroom, Google Docs and stuff like that.

Which classes do you mostly use your laptop in?

- **Zoey, 9th Grade:** I use my laptop in class to play this number game OR I do my work. Oh, you wanna know what...Oh! Google Classroom, the Login Portal, and all the stuff like that.
- **Molly, 11th Grade:** I use it more in Independent Living. I do a lot of taxes and stuff on the laptop for that class.
- **Felix, 11th Grade:** I use them the most for online classes, but I also use them a lot for Language Arts to make essays and PowerPoints
- **Gianni, 12th Grade:** I use them for completing most of my research projects for Civics Class.

What are there to having a laptop at school?

- **Zoey, 9th Grade:** The benefit to having the laptop? Oh! We don't gotta use the computer lab. We stay in class. And, when my mommy takes my phone, I can use my laptop.
- **Molly, 11th Grade:** I can look up information, check my grades in school, and do online work.
- **Felix, 11th Grade:** I think the biggest benefit is being able to catch up on work without having to be at school – like a lot of the work is done online
- **Gianna, 12th Grade:** The benefit of having a laptop at school is basically never forgetting to do your work, because most of the work is online, on Google Classrooms, so you will have all the work you are missing in every single one of your classes on Goggle Classroom, so basically it helps you with everything

What's the biggest challenge of having a laptop?

- **Zoey, 9th Grade:** Challenges to having a laptop? I get distracted playing games when I am supposed to be doing my work. And it dies really fast – well mine's does.
- **Molly, 11th Grade:** I get distracted by YouTube and I get distracted because it is too heavy, and I have to carry it around.
- **Felix, 11th Grade:** The biggest challenge has been the technological problems such as trouble connecting to the internet, not being able to log in, not having a charger, and running low on battery. Things like that.
- **Gianni, 12th Grade:** I haven't really had a challenge but if I had to say one, basically keeping track of my charger and making sure I keep my computer charged at all times