

SAU #13 - Freedom, Madison & Tamworth Schools
Frequently Asked Questions About Our Digital Learning Initiative

1) What is the purpose of the Digital Learning Initiative?

The purpose is to provide all of our students and teachers with digital technology to be used in daily instruction.

2) What is the goal of the Digital Learning Initiative?

The goal is to teach our students to use advanced 21st Century technology skills in order to be well prepared middle-high school students, college and career ready, and productive employees in a competitive global economy.

3) What technology is used?

The technology is specifically designed for schools. Teachers will use “CLOUD” computing to store, organize, access, and present digital curriculum, lessons, and instructional materials to their students.

All students will be assigned a KUNO tablet to use during various instructional times at school and when at home as determined by their teachers. The KUNO tablet is a 10” Android hardware computing device. Students will be trained in the use and care of the KUNO tablet.

Students will access digital education information approved by the school administration. The information students receive will be "pushed-down" to them from the “CLOUD” by their teachers. For example, teachers will give students classroom materials, reading assignments, individualized work, and homework to complete in class and at home. This allows students who do not have access to the Internet at home to use technology to learn. Students who do have access to the Internet at home or in community locations can only go to Internet sites available through the school to complete their educational research.

4) Can students use this technology to go to inappropriate Internet sites?

No. The technology used complies with the federal law known as the Child Internet Protection Act (CIPA). The school’s “CLOUD” and KUNO tablets have web filters built into their cores. This prevents students from going to inappropriate places on the Internet when using the KUNO tablet whether at school or off school property. Unlike commercial mobile devices such as smart phones, laptops, and other tablets, the KUNO tablet is made specifically for schools with *child Internet protection as the number one priority*. Students must access the school’s CIPA compliant technology regardless of where the KUNO tablet is used. Students cannot load games on the device.

5) Why is the student taking a KUNO tablet home?

Like textbooks, the KUNO tablet is an investment approved by the school board for the educational benefit of our students. Students should be able to access this investment at school

and home. Teachers will determine the frequency of KUNO tablet use, when it will be sent home, and what learning activities will be completed with it.

6) What if a student accidentally breaks or loses the tablet?

The KUNO tablet is specifically designed with travel between school and home in mind. The KUNO tablet is highly durable. The breakage rate is approximately 2%. In the event that the tablet is damaged or lost, it will be addressed in the same manner as the school does for damaged or lost textbooks. If stolen, a thief cannot use the KUNO tablet because it will be disabled by the school administration.

7) Will textbooks be replaced?

Not entirely. As textbook manufacturers make the transition to digital textbooks, the school will be in a position to use the new technology when it becomes available. Students will still be able to use printed library books, novels and textbooks.

8) Will teachers be replaced?

No. Teachers will continue to plan lessons and use the KUNO tablets to enhance the quality of instruction for all of their students.

9) Will handwriting be replaced?

No. Students will be expected to use handwriting to complete schoolwork.

10) Will students be looking at a computer screen all day long?

No. Teachers will use the KUNO tablet as one of many teaching tools available to them. Teachers will be expected to use the KUNO tablet during the school day, but they will not be required to use it all day long.

11) Is there a camera on the KUNO tablet?

Yes. However, teachers will only activate the camera when they want it to be used by their students. The school cannot use the camera to “spy” on students in school or students and parents when the KUNO tablet is used at home.

12) How will parents/guardians be involved in the Digital Learning Initiative?

At least one parent/guardian will be expected to attend an informational session hosted by the school or meet with their child’s teacher before their child is given a KUNO tablet. The parent/guardian will be provided with training about the school’s acceptable use policy for technology, how their child shall care for the KUNO tablet, and use it. The parent/guardian will learn how to access their child’s schoolwork on the KUNO tablet when it is at home. The parent/guardian will be provided opportunities to ask questions about the KUNO tablet before it is given to their child.

13) How is the Digital Learning Initiative funded?

It is funded by a variety of sources including private & public grants and the school budget. Over \$188,000 in grants has been committed to this initiative SAU-wide.

14) When will each student receive a KUNO tablet?

On or about October 15, 2013. After students and parents/guardians receive training.

For more information please contact the school Principal.