

SCHOOL ADMINISTRATIVE UNIT #13

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Dear Parents/Guardians,

Welcome to the new school year! I am writing to inform you about the Digital Learning Initiative that will be used with all of our students enrolled in grades K-8 in the SAU #13 member schools of Freedom, Madison and Tamworth. The initiative is the first of its kind in New Hampshire. In fact, it is one of the first in the nation to be used with students because it involves every grade level at each school.


Attached please find a document entitled, SAU #13 - Freedom, Madison & Tamworth Schools - Frequently Asked Questions About Our Digital Learning Initiative. This document was created to provide you with information about the initiative. If you have additional questions I encourage you to contact your child's principal.

This summer, teachers, paraprofessionals and administrators across SAU #13 received extensive training in computer software and the use of an Android computing device know as a KUNO tablet. I am proud to report that many of these individuals volunteered their time to participate in the training. Our educators were taught how to apply this state-of-the-art technology to curriculum, instruction and assessment. I have not witnessed this much excitement displayed by teachers, paraprofessionals and administrators for an initiative during my 30-plus years in education.

It is our goal to give every student a KUNO tablet to use on or about October 15th. In order for us to meet this goal your help is needed. At least one parent/guardian will be expected to attend an informational session provided by the school before their child is given a KUNO tablet. You may have received, or soon will receive, a notice from your child's school about an informational session to be held as part of an upcoming "Open House". If you cannot attend the "Open House" other arrangements will be made for your participation.

Parent involvement is a critical piece of the Digital Learning Initiative. More importantly, it is vital to your child's academic success. We look forward to your cooperation and support.

Kind regards,



Lou Goscinski
Superintendent, SAU #13

Cc: Freedom, Madison & Tamworth Principals

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.