

May 15, 2018

Dear Region 10 Families:

We are writing to share exciting news for students entering grades 9-12 in the fall of 2018. Lewis S. Mills High School is proud to announce the implementation of a 1:1 computer program to launch in August of 2018! This means all students in grades 9-12 will bring home a district owned laptop computer for individual use until the time they graduate or leave the Region 10 School District. The technology team, teachers, administrators, and Board of Education technology committee has spent the last two years preparing behind the scenes and now we are ready to share this exciting news! This is phase one of a multi-year plan to improve technology at all four schools.

This will be a significant change for our high school students as they enter the 2018- 2019 school year. A 1:1 environment grants us the unique opportunity to transform the teaching and learning experience for all our students and more sufficiently to prepare all students for the challenges of college and future careers. We believe this improved level of technology readiness is necessary to create dynamic learning environments that support creativity, collaboration, communication, and critical thinking within a personalized learning environment.

To achieve this goal, every student in Grades 9-12 will be issued a laptop to use as a Personalized Learning Device (PLD) for his/her use throughout their tenure as a high school student at Mills. Furthermore, students in grades 5-8 will benefit from an improved environment for teaching and learning with an influx of laptop carts that will no longer be in use at Mills. This will allow our middle school students to have access to a device when needed for purposeful instruction. Although these devices will not go home, it will add to the 21st century learning environment at Har Bur and allow for more technology integration.

Region 10 is committed to continual improvement of the educational environment. We see technology as an important tool to prepare children for college and future careers however, we strive to find a balance between on and off-line work. We understand the concern regarding increased screen time for students and plan to work with our staff to ensure responsible and purposeful use of the devices at all times.

We will share additional details in the coming week; however, we wanted to make this announcement early so that you may plan accordingly. ***Please do not buy your child a laptop this summer!*** If your child already owns a device and wish to use it in school there will be an opt out option shared with you in the fall. If you do not currently own a laptop for your child we encourage you to hold off on that purchase. Please check our website regularly for updates and we will send additional communication as it becomes available. Please reach out to me if you have any questions or concerns, burkec@region10ct.org

Sincerely,

Cheri Burke

Director of Student Learning