

Owensboro Public Schools providing 5th-12th grade students with MacBook Airs

Owensboro Public Schools' 5th-12th grade students are the first in the nation to receive Mac OS X Lion - MacBook Airs, which was recently introduced by Apple. Distribution of 2,200 notebook computers began August 29. All students received their laptops by the end of September.



Apple's new MacBook Air comes with Intel's next generation processors, high-speed Thunderbolt I/O technology, a backlit keyboard and Mac OS X Lion, the world's most advanced operating system. The 11-inch model weighs just 2.38 pounds and provides up to 5 hours of battery life, making it a great match for student life.



The district technology department spent two years researching products before selecting the MacBook Air and preparing digital lessons. During the summer, teachers received training on the new notebook computers.



"We're thrilled to provide our students with the very latest technology from Apple in a form that is thin and light enough for them to take to and from school and carry with them everywhere. We also believe that by providing our students with easy access to powerful technology, they will be more engaged in learning and more connected to the school environment," said Dr. Larry Vick, OPS Superintendent.

Why make this technology investment? "The vision for the Digital Initiative is for our schools to seamlessly integrate relevant technology that empowers and engages students to become independent problem solvers and critical thinkers. When our students graduate from high school they will be expected to be responsible digital citizens and proficient computer users. This initiative will equip them for success in our ever changing society," explains Paula Roberts, Assistant Superintendent of Instruction.

Prior to receiving a laptop, each student and a parent went through computer-use orientation, as well as signing an acceptable use policy. Each student pays a \$50 annual rental fee for use of the computer.