

BASD Middle School Student iBook FAQ 2006-2007

Q: Will all middle school students have a computer in 2006-2007 school year?

A: Yes. They will each have iBook G4 (12 inch) computers. The seventh and eighth grade students will have the machines they used last year. Sixth grade students will receive the machines the 8th graders used last year.

Q: What computer operating system do they have?

A: Mac OS X 10.4.6

Q: How is that different than the teacher laptops?

A: Teachers have a Powerbook G4 computer using 10.4.3. Students have some additional programs and later versions of iLife (06) and iWork (06).

Q: Can students access things like iChat, Mail or system utilities?

A: Students do not have iChat or email programs installed on the laptop. However, there are mail programs accessible via a Web browser. Teachers need to monitor student's usage of these sites. Sites may be blocked by our district network department upon request. Students do not have access to the Utilities in the Applications / Utilities folder.

Q: How are the laptops labeled and marked?

A: Each middle school iBook has an identifying label on the lid indicating the name of the student it belongs, a designated BASD computer number and the serial number of the unit. Each iBook and computer battery was etched with the computer number on the underside as well. The sleeve has a clear plastic window where the school name, student id #, graduating class and name is indicated.

Q: How many AC Adapters will we receive?

A: Each homeroom or room that will house laptops will be given one AC Adapter per computer.

Q: Are there things to keep in mind when charging the iBooks?

A: Yes.

- Do not charge them in while in protective sleeve - they will overheat.
- Do not leave the computer in the sleep mode while inside the sleeve for any extended period of time. **If the iBook will be in a sleeve for more than 15 minutes, it should be shut off. If you are not going to use the laptops during a class period, students should either turn their computers off or take them out of the case to avoid damage.**
- Make sure laptops are turned OFF while charging.
- Try to create a charging environment that does not tax a particular breaker in the room. If you have issues, alert your principal immediately.

Q: How do the students "log on" to their laptop?

A: Each iBook was specifically configured for a particular student. They log in with their Student ID Number and their server account password. *In July 2006, student IDs were changed to **seven digits**. If the student was enrolled in the district before July 2006, their password will have a leading zero in front of it.* For example, if a student's ID was 999999, it is now 0999999. If a student was enrolled on or after July 2006, their student ID will start with a 1.

Q: How does the student know his/her password for logging in?

A: If the student had been using the student server last year, they may already know their password. If they are new to the school, the technologist and identified teachers at each building have access to passwords.

Q: If a student saves a file to their documents folder on the laptop, is it automatically saved to the student server?

A: No, it is saved only to the laptop unless the student logs into the student server and saves it to their documents folder there as well. **It is recommended that students back up their documents to the student server on a regular basis (daily) in the event their laptop needs to be "re-imaged" or goes out for repair.**

Q: Will files be saved on the laptop on the end of year by technology staff?

A. No. The iBooks will be collected at the end of the school year and reimaged over the summer.

Q: How should I start off the year with the laptops in my classroom?

A: If this is new to you, start small and work your way up to more involved projects. Don't try to make an iMovie the first day! Also, don't wow the kids the first few days and then pull them back. Vary the ways you use technology. Using a Keynote presentation to display class notes every day will become tedious for the kids.

You may want to assign students to be "helpers" on your team to provide additional help. Find out which students were especially helpful and which were ones to watch from the previous year.

Other Things to Remember:

- Make sure students know to put iBooks in case when transporting them through the hallways!
- All stickers placed on case must be removed at the end of the year.
- Refer to the BASD iBook District Policies document at <http://www.bethsd.org/skill21/> for more information.