



December 2013

## PDL NEWS FOR MIDDLE SCHOOLS

*This newsletter will be sent periodically to all teachers in preparation for the rollout of the HCS Personalized Digital Learning 1:1 for all middle school students in January.*

**THE IPAD DISTRIBUTION TO STUDENTS** will begin in full force on the first day students return from break on January 6. The schedule below shows the date for each school. Each school is working out its own distribution method (some through one subject class all day long; some by grade levels). Your school will share the plan for you, but all methods will include a team of District staff members on-site all day to provide assistance.

Schedule for Distribution of iPads to Students:

- Aynor Middle: Wednesday, Jan. 22
- Black Water Middle: Tuesday, Jan. 21
- Conway Middle: Thursday, Jan. 9
- Forestbrook Middle: Mon-Tues Jan. 13-14
- Green Sea Floyds: Monday, Jan. 27
- Loris Middle: Tuesday, Jan. 7
- Myrtle Beach Middle: Monday, Jan. 6
- N. Myrtle Beach Middle: Wednesday, Jan. 15
- Ocean Bay Middle: Thursday, Jan. 23
- St. James Middle: Friday, Jan. 10
- Whittemore Park Middle: (TBD)

In addition, an instructional video will be available to walk teachers and students step-by-step through the set up on the distribution day.

**PARENTAL PERMISSION FORMS** developed for student iPads will be sent home the last week before break in December prior to the rollout in January. Please help communicate that parent signatures must be obtained prior to students receiving an iPad. **Without the parent signatures, students will not get an iPad.** Changes in federal law require that parental permission forms be on file for various online accounts (including Edmodo and iTunes). Teachers will only be required to collect the forms, not keep them on file.

**TEACHER SURVEY** participation is requested of all teachers to get pre-distribution data on technology use in your school. Teachers should have received information about the link to the survey from their school. The data from teachers, students, and parents will be used to help evaluate the PDL 1:1 initiative at all grade

levels. Please help by completing the survey prior to the upcoming holiday break.

**IPAD CASES** for students will be the Gumdrop currently used in most schools. Students will put the cases on as part of the distribution day set-up.

Gumdrop Case  
for Students



**WIRELESS INFRASTRUCTURE** upgrades in all middle schools have been completed. Prior to student iPad distribution in January, District Internet bandwidth connection will be upgraded from 2 Gbps to 4 Gbps. This will be the second bandwidth upgrade this year in an effort to improve the classroom connectivity needed to make the 1:1 program successful. Horry County Schools will be the only district in the state with 4 Gbps.

**A STUDENT DIGITAL CITIZENSHIP COURSE** has been developed to help students understand the responsibilities that come with the privilege of having iPads, and all middle school students will be expected to complete the course as part of the distribution agreement. The course will help students understand their personal responsibilities as digital learners and how to make ethical, safe, and responsible decisions in a digital learning community. Eight lessons on digital citizenship will be delivered between December and May. They are: Cyberbullying, The Digital Footprint, Impact of Words & Actions, Protecting Personal Information, Online Safety & Security, Choices & Behavior, Ethical Use of Information, Care of the Device. The course will also be available in HCS iTunesU, so parents can review all the training modules that are being provided to students. Each school is determining the method of delivering the course to students.

**SCHOOLS' BLENDED LEARNING DESIGNS** were finalized during November and December. Blended Learning Leadership Teams from each middle school finalized the blended learning design for their school and participated in a Blended Learning Leadership Academy. School Blended Learning Leadership teams are working with school staffs to ensure the successful implementation of blended learning at each school.

**DIGITAL CONTENT** was also reviewed by these teams. They reviewed a variety of digital content and provided input about what would best meet the needs of students at their schools. Two programs, Achieve 3000 and ALEKS, were selected for initial implementation in the spring of 2014.

- **Achieve 3000** is a cross-curricular adaptive online literacy program that can be used in English language arts, social studies, and science classrooms.
- **ALEKS** is an adaptive online math program providing targeted instruction aligned to Common Core State Standards.
- In addition to this adaptive content, the district will be providing Discovery Education's Science Techbook to all middle schools as a supplement to students' current textbooks.

All of these resources, plus the wide array of cross-curricular and content specific apps available for the iPad, will provide teachers and students with the needed tools for success. School teams will continue to review digital content as we move forward with the PDL initiative.

## **TIMELINE FOR INSTRUCTIONAL SUPPORT IMPLEMENTATION PHASE**

- **Continued iPad Training:** Digital integration specialists will continue work in middle schools to provide teacher training and just-in-time support in using iPads for teaching and learning.

- **Education Elements Launchpad:** The target date for implementation of the student and teacher launchpads will be at the beginning of second semester. Teachers will receive launchpad training as a part of their weekly sessions with Digital Integration Specialists.
- **Digital Content:** Training for teachers will be provided in Achieve 3000 and ALEKS beginning in January.
- **Ongoing Blended Learning Support:** Throughout the spring ongoing support for blended learning implementation will be provided.
- **School-led Professional Development:** School blended learning lead/coaches will continue using district provided modules for ongoing school-led professional development.

**AIRSERVER** has been purchased for all Middle School Teachers as part of PDL to support teacher display of iPads to projectors. AirServer, available through the KACE software library, gives teachers the freedom to move around the classroom with the iPad display projected for the class to see. **Please note:** AirServer will only work on Windows 7 or higher. If your operating system needs to be upgraded, see your tech contact so a service order can be placed with for the school technician to upgrade your laptop.

**POWER STRIPS FOR CHARGING** have been purchased and will be delivered to all teachers on the day of iPad distribution. Teachers will be given enough power strips so all iPads will be able to be charged in the classroom. In addition, each classroom will get three “stands” each able to hold up to 10 iPads. This is considered a cost-effective (possibly temporary) solution to help organize iPads during charging.

**VISIT THE NEW PDL WEBSITE** for up-to-date information on the 1:1 iPad initiative at [pdl.horrycountyschools.net](http://pdl.horrycountyschools.net). To ensure that our teachers, students, families and other concerned stakeholders are kept informed, information will be posted at this site frequently. We value your input and ask that you let us know of any additional informational that should be shared here.