



January 25, 2019

Arbor Park School District's Information Technology Department (PandaTech) is officially announcing our 1:1 (one to one) deployment plan which was approved by the Board of Education on January 23, 2019. The funding for this initiative is being supported by Evidence Based Funding (EBF), allowing us the opportunity to implement 1:1. In preparation for 1:1, we have been executing a forward-thinking network infrastructure allowing for cutting-edge technologies in the classroom today and our future. Technology changes at a rapid pace and we want to be prepared for what is next!

The goal of our 1:1 initiative, is to allow each student to have their own device allowing them to be more engaged in their learning, have access to the right tools at the right time, and become savvy 21st century students. The entire rollout will be for Grade 4 at Scarlet Oak and Grades 5-8 at Arbor Park Middle School. Grades 4 and 5, will be rolled out near the end of February. The goal of this initial rollout is have students complete their PARCC testing on their own device, rather than utilizing a computer lab. Grades 6 through 8, will be prepared over summer for August 2019 rollout.

After rigorous research, the selected device is the Microsoft Surface Go tablet. Similar to a PC in an existing lab, these devices will allow students to have the same experience they are used to, but with more speed, power, and 24/7 access to their device. The SurfaceGo is a commercial grade robust device designed for students of all grade levels. Teachers will have a similar device, the SurfacePro, which will allow them to be on the same platform as their students. Throughout the district, iPads and Chromebooks will still be available. Our goal is to have students fluent on all types of devices including an iPad, Chromebook, and Windows device making them well-rounded for high school, college, and employment. To read more about the SurfaceGo visit: <https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/p/surface-go/8v9dp4lnknsz?activetab=pivot%3aoverviewtab>

Technology is only effective as a learning tool when teachers have the skills to use when implementing lessons into the classroom. Our main focus is to continue to provide training and professional development for teachers and staff on the new platforms and devices. New platforms include Microsoft Office 365 and Skooler Learning Management System. During the remainder of this school year, we will continue training our staff but will also offer parent and student training for the devices and platforms.

1:1 is a game changer for Arbor Park as a whole, allowing us to catch up with other school districts while learning from their experiences. 1:1 will allow us to utilize existing electronic curriculum resources while improving the capability to implement new and robust digital curriculum.

In conclusion, we are excited to bring Arbor Park School District into the 21st century by providing leading-edge technology to and in our classrooms. More information will be released soon.

Thank you,

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