

<b>Summary Parent Responses - Grades 7 through 9 - December 2005</b>							
	<b>Strongly disagree</b>	<b>Disagree</b>	<b>Neutral</b>	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Strongly Agree</b>	<b>Too early to tell</b>	<b>N</b>
<b>Grade 7</b>							
1. Laptops have positively impacted how my son or daughter learns at school.	3.1%	6.3%	6.3%	25.0%	50.0%	9.4%	32
2. My son or daughter is more organized as result of using a laptop.	3.1%	15.6%	15.6%	18.8%	43.8%	3.1%	32
3. My son or daughter's self-esteem has improved as a result of using a laptop.	9.4%	12.5%	28.1%	21.9%	25.0%	3.1%	32
4. My son or daughter uses his/her laptop responsibly.	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	25.0%	75.0%	0.0%	32
<b>Grade 8</b>							
1. Laptops have positively impacted how my son or daughter learns at school.	8.8%	0.0%	5.9%	29.4%	55.9%	0.0%	34
2. My son or daughter is more organized as result of using a laptop.	8.8%	5.9%	14.7%	29.4%	41.2%	0.0%	34
3. My son or daughter's self-esteem has improved as a result of using a laptop.	11.8%	8.8%	32.4%	23.5%	23.5%	0.0%	34
4. My son or daughter uses his/her laptop responsibly.	11.8%	0.0%	2.9%	17.6%	67.6%	0.0%	34
<b>Grade 9</b>							
1. Laptops have positively impacted how my son or daughter learns at school.	10.6%	2.1%	10.6%	17.0%	57.4%	2.1%	47
2. My son or daughter is more organized as result of using a laptop.	10.9%	8.7%	10.9%	30.4%	39.1%	0.0%	46
3. My son or daughter's self-esteem has improved as a result of using a laptop.	15.2%	8.7%	15.2%	15.2%	43.5%	2.2%	46
4. My son or daughter uses his/her laptop responsibly.	0.0%	2.2%	4.3%	23.9%	69.6%	0.0%	46

Gr 7	Gr 8	Gr 9	Parent Comments
7F	8M	9M	I have one of each grade with a laptop although we have a desk top computer to use everyone is able to do their work off on their own without distraction. I have notice the older one really has grown to appreciate and understand the value of the tool for getting his work done. He is very proud and works longer on projects as a result. My eighth grader has always struggled in school and seems to be using his computer more and more. His hand writing is very poor and his typing was very slow. He has improved greatly over the use in the last two years. Where it is his alone to use he spends more time at his desk in his room then when he used the desk top in the family room. I strongly agree they all have greatly benefited from this tool.
7F	8M		i love the laptops and i really would like it if you kept them but i also want you to get rid of them so that my wonderful daughter can get her own laptop so she would be happy because i love to make her happy~!!!~!!!~!!!~!!!~!!!~
7F		9F	9th grade suaghter, only uses her laptop in one class, she hardly even brings it home. □ It was used a lot in middle school, but it seems for her at least she says her teachers don't use them, (except for one teacher). □ Either they all use them or get rid of them. Much too expencive device to have sitting idley.
7F		9F	The laptop program has been the best thing to happen to my daughter. I would strongly encourage the school district to continue to provide the personal laptop for my daughter next year as a 10th grade student.
7F		9M	My husband and I are very thankful this program is available. Does the school offer keyboarding classes or encourage the classes in the early grades prior to issue of laptops? Our children have received keyboarding instruction, but we see keyboarding necessary to expedite your work. □ □ We are very satisfied with the laptop program and wish it would be availalbe to all 7th through 12th grades! Great addition to the educational system.
7F			I am glad that the children have the lap tops as it makes the "playing field" equal for all of them. We are fortunate enough to have a computer and access to the internet at home, making home use of the lap top moot. In some cases it has been a hindrance, such as trying to have the lap top print to our printer. I also like how at ease the chilren are with the technology, and I think the teachers have done a good job incorporating the lap tops into their classroom teaching. However, I don't think it has improved the quality of the teaching or the curriculum. They were fine before the advent of laptops.
7F			The program is excellent. The computer helps them become more technology saavy. It teaches them responsibility, having to take care of a valuable asset. It also helps them become more organized.
7F			Laptops have increased my daughter's enthusiasm for school and homework. I think she puts more effort into her homework assignments when she can do them on her laptop. Her typing and general computer skills have improved as well.
7F			Some of the kids (my son in 10th grade included) believe they are not helpful but I truly believe in the early years it benefits everyone. Kids tend to take the computer use for granted. It has certainly had many benefits for the students. Theproblem lies in the fact that their desk tops crash and hey get frustrated and stressed when they lose their stuff. Also, the turn around on repair is not always quick and some students fall behind. Having the memory sticks and saving to our home computer has benefited the usage!

Gr 7	Gr 8	Gr 9	Parent Comments
7M		9F	classroom and I also notice this continued use with my now 7th grader. The curriculum at the middle school has been geared toward integrating computers into the instructional program from conducting research and completing reports to calculating grades. It is a model program and exemplifies how the lap top program should be used. The time and energy that the teachers put into the program is evident. This unfortunately seems to change dramatically when students enter high school. Our experience is that the lap tops are tolerated at best and discouraged at worst. As a result of one teacher's behavior my daughter no longer uses her lap top for taking notes in class. This is a skill that should be encouraged, not discouraged. No teacher at the high school, in our experience, appears to use the lap tops as an instructional tool in his/her class. When my 9th grader questions us as to the difference in the use of the lap tops between middle and high school, I can only guess that it has to do with the support and understanding of the program.
7M		9M	Laptops should not be rolled out until 9th grade. It does not make sense to give a 7th, 8th and 9th graders laptops and not for 10th, 11th and 12th graders nothing when they need it most. Handwriting is not practice and kids are horrible writers, spelling is not necessary because it is easier to let spell check do the function. Also, to hand a 7th grader a laptop and expect them not to IM or do other things that the school has determined it is not right is like handing them a piece of candy and telling them not to eat it. Time to get rid of the laptops until 9th grade.
7M			Overall, I think the laptop experience is a good and positive one. It is often overused, however. There have been a number of instances where research using other sources (textbook, encyclopedia, newspaper, maps, etc.) would have been better, more appropriate, and allowed more creativity, but my son tries to do everything via the internet, whether the best source or not.
7M			We feel that having such easy access to laptop learning promotes research skills and can assist in writing. I think that Maine students are very fortunate to have such an opportunity. □ We also want the kids to be well balanced and have PE, art, music and recess.
7M			I feel strongly enough about the benefits that I will buy my son a laptop if they are removed from the budget. Thank you, Mark Panaccione 838-1810
7M			Apparently the kids were well-briefed regarding the rules of laptop care and feeding, which I applaud. But I don't understand the rule prohibiting use of the internet while at home -- is this truly a rule? Proficiency with gathering information from the web is 21st century literacy, and I'm sure most kids would use the laptop responsibly and also that surfing could be monitored. □ □ I think this is an incredibly valuable program and I am grateful to a visionary like Angus King and the state of Maine to make this program happen.
7M			we believe that using this technology is an important component of learning and teaching now and as they move on through the rest of their grades and on to college or into the work force. this is an important tool as it helps each child become even more confident and comfortable with computer use even though we have 2 computers in our home. I would like to see more access to windows pcs/ not just apples - the real world uses more windows applications than apples. however, all students should have access to and be responsible for a lap from grades 5th and up. thanks! dont let the program die or become watered-down.
	8F		I strongly feel that laptops should be avail for each student thru 12th grade.

Gr 7	Gr 8	Gr 9	Parent Comments
	8F		<p>I strongly disagree with giving students laptops but once they have become proficient and accustomed to writing papers, developing graphs and charts, doing research on them, the adm chose to take them away! If you commit laptops to a grade, be ready to commit them to the end of the students time at Falmouth. Typical of many changes, Falmouth does not know the impact the laptop has had on the now 10th graders because the adm has mucked up the process by taking them away from the 1:1 plan. How can you have clear statistics on a long term results when the adm is so inconsistent? □</p> <p>□</p> <p>If the school can not provide for all, could it please work harder to devise a plan where parents can buy laptops are a discount, more than in the general market. Then I would like to see adm. work harder to support personal laptops usage in the classroom, to sell the concept to students and parents, to help make laptop usage a savvy and cool thing to have. (It's all about selling education and making being a really good student a cool thing). □</p>
	8M		<p>The most important part about the laptops is the equity: everyone has one. With my tenth grader, it's back to those who can afford it, and those who can't. Please introduce them for 10th graders (and 11 graders, too).</p>
	8M		<p>My other son is 10th grade- is lost without his laptop. He now writes all of his papers at home on our home computer and can't work on them during study hall. Please keep laptops 7-9th - add ability to rent them for student for 10-12th grades.</p>
	8M		<p>my son has excellent typing skills and feels that hand written note taking would be much harder for him as he says that he is a slow writer and would miss notes.</p>
	8M		<p>the laptop has been in repair several times over the past 2 yrs. It would be nice if we either had more loaners or start to replace ones that had major problems.</p>
	8M		<p>I think the laptop program is fantastic. All of our students should be literate in computer usage and as many programs as possible to improve their skills as they progress through school. Computers are such a part of our society and workplaces now that all students need this knowledge - the earlier the better.</p>
	8M		<p>The laptop has been a very valuable tool for my son's learning in almost all content areas.</p>
		9F	<p>Please do not extend laptops into the higher grades. I just don't see how they fit into the rigorous college prep curriculum that is the goal for every student under Learning Results in Falmouth. I am especially afraid that laptops will negatively effect the Honors/AP classes currently in place. I haven't seen the case made where laptops improve the delivery of content or development of critical thinking skills. □</p> <p>□</p> <p>Regarding this survey - how will you ever demonstrably and scientifically show that laptops improve self-esteem? Why can't simple planners or inexpensive PDA's be used to improve organizational skills? It seems that laptops are a solution in search of a problem. Anecdote and weak surveys are not acceptable evidence for proceeding with enlargement of the laptop program. □</p> <p>□</p> <p>It seems that everyone has at least 1 computer at home already, and most students also have broadband at home. We are not a technology-poor town and we don't need the school system to meet a need that doesn't exist. By all means, supply laptops to those students with specific</p>
		9F	<p>So far this year (the end of November) my daughter has not had to use the laptop at all. She has not brought it home once and says she hasn't used it at school. I think we should seriously think about how much money is wasted on this program.</p>
		9F	<p>The use of Laptops in conjunction with teaching programs designed to take advantage of them such as in the Middle School has definitely had a positive impact on my childs learning and in expanding their horizons.</p>

Gr 7	Gr 8	Gr 9	Parent Comments
		9F	My daughter used her laptop a lot in seventh and eighth grade but hardly uses it at all in the ninth grade. She said the high school teachers don't know how to use them in their classes yet. She brought her laptop home to do homework on every night in middle school but has only brought it home twice in high school. Why aren't the high school teachers using them like the middle school teachers did?
		9F	Let them use computers to increase their logical reasoning skills. Stop giving secretary and "make pretty" presentation projects.
		9F	The laptop program is the most important program! You cannot function in the world today without command of technology and this is a great way to give our kids the skills they need.
		9F	It seems that laptops were used in almost every subject in 7th and 8th grade. My daughter would bring it home every night and do her homework on it. However, in 9th grade, it seems that the teachers do not use the laptops as rigorously (or even at all).
		9F	I am a firm believer in the Laptop usage and think that if they have them from Middle School and get the usage they are, it should continue thru High School. I am not a computer person other than basic email but with the future of technology getting even more advanced I think it is a must!!!
		9F	I think the laptops have been great and I think it's really important now that the kids have had them for years to continue having them use them throughout high school. I think they'd be lost without them at this point. They have become accustomed to them and rely on them.
		9F	9th grade teachers do not incorporate the computer as much as 7+8 do
		9M	As a parent of a 9th grader I am not seeing the laptop used. It is kept in the locker at school and rarely are there assignments done on it. When questioned about the use during classtime the answer is always the same...we hardly ever use them. They were used effectively in 7th and 8th grade. We were pleased with the program then, but question the use in 9th grade.
		9M	Now that the students have been learning and using their laptops for 3 years, it seems to be counter-productive not to continue.
		9M	The lap top has not been used much this year. It was used a lot in the 7th and 8th grade classes, but it has not been helpful in the high school.
		9M	The laptop program has had such a positive effect, that taking the computer away at this point will have a huge detrimental effect. The laptop has become a vital component of my Son's education. □ □ I applaud the program and would like to see it extended, as possible, through High School grades.
		9M	Don't bother. Extension of the laptop program cannot be justified by educational results. So don't waste the money.
		9M	When the laptop was introduced, I noticed that my son wrote more freely. It was liberating for him not to be bogged down with the mechanics of writing. With the laptop, he continues to work on written assignments with enthusiasm.
		9M	THE laptop experience was ENORMOUSLY positive in middle school. However, laptops do not seem to be nearly as integral to the curriculum in high school as they were last year. Since they are not used as much by teachers, they seem less important to my son's learning experience. He has access to a computer at home (with music, IM, etc) and uses this much more frequently this year.
		9M	This is a wonderful program and I hope it can be continued.
		9M	This family thinks they are GREAT. We were wondering what will happen in 10th grade without laptops, hoping things will not go downhill.

Gr 7	Gr 8	Gr 9	Parent Comments
			I would like to see more use of computers in drilling students - repetition facilitates learning. Further, I would like to encourage the use of course administration packages (moodle, WebCT, Blackboard) so that I could monitor progress daily. John Broida
			I think it is more important for students to have access to a laptop as they move along in school. It is too bad to get them used to it as a tool for their everyday learning and then discontinue it as they get into high school. Some people cannot afford a laptop for their children so this has been a great use of funding. I would rather see it continue to follow the kids up through the grades than to introduce it in the younger grades if a choice as to be made based on budget. It has been a great tool.
			I am so impressed by my child's ability to use computers. I wish it could be offered to all students at Falmouth High School. It's a great program!

<b>Grade 10 Student Responses</b>	<b>Strongly disagree (1)</b>	<b>Disagree (2)</b>	<b>Neutral (3)</b>	<b>Agree (4)</b>	<b>Strongly Agree (5)</b>	<b>N is 68</b>	<b>Average</b>
1. I preferred students having a school laptop available to use at all times as our students have in 7th through 9th grade.	18	3	16	8	21		3.17
2. Laptop carts in classes, the library, and lab computers, combined with our family's computer(s) and a pen drive provide me with satisfactory access to technology to support my learning.	5	7	10	23	22		3.74
<b>Grade 10 Parent Responses</b>						<b>N is 27</b>	
1. I preferred students having a school laptop available to use at all times as our students have in 7th through 9th grade.	3	6	3	1	11		3.45
2. Laptop carts in classes, the library, and lab computers, combined with our family's computer(s) and a pen drive provide me with satisfactory access to technology to support my learning.	0	3	6	8	8		3.76

Parent/student	1:1 preference	Prefer carts as in grade 10	Comments
parent	5	2	<p>My child learned to depend on the computer. When it was taken away, it was disruptive to the organizational structure that she had developed over the past 3 years.</p> <p>My 10th-grader used his laptop for all of the above. The organizational piece was key, and also, he was able to produce graphics and presentations in a more sophisticated way than he could on our home computer.</p> <p>Once he borrowed a laptop. It seemed to be a lot of extra effort. He uses the pen drive sometimes, but he also loses it. We replaced last year's pen drive, as well.</p> <p>We have a desktop PC, and he mostly uses it to access information from the Internet. It does not have MS Office, so he uses Word Pad to type, which is not great.</p> <p>I feel like the expense is worth is. Sooner or later, the school will be bearing the costs for most students to have laptops. I'd also be interested to see if parents would pay at a rate of \$300 per year, and what kind of ownership we would have.</p> <p>Lastly and conversely, if the current plan is deemed efficient and successful, I don't see why you would be immediately looking to keep this year's 9th graders in individual laptops. If the pen drive, etc., are working, then they're working, period. Is it about the money or the program? Keep the standards the same for both grades, it feels like our 10th graders have had something yanked away.</p>
parent	5	2	<p>Computers were a great treat for kids in 7th grade, but the teachers and the students were never on the same user ability as one another. There was always a gap. Very few teachers seemed to know how to use computers to their greatest advantage. (One teacher was busy ordering shoes on line as we entered the cafeteria for our teacher conference!) Although our daughter is quite proficient with the computer and used her laptop wisely and well, it has been a better lesson to figure out how to share our home computer amongst the 4 of us, thereby learning better time management skills.</p>
parent	5	2	<p>Because our child has learning disabilities the laptop is an invaluable tool. As a visual learner it makes a vast difference in his ability to complete written assignments.</p>
parent	2	3	<p>I'm happy without the laptops. They play videogames under the pretense of doing homework. We have computers at home for homework.</p>
parent	1	5	<p>I don't understand how this worked from a funding perspective but felt that most students had access by other means and perhaps the \$\$\$ could have been used for other purposes or populations. I also understand there would be some students for whom this would not be the case and perhaps loaners or some other inconspicuous access to laptops could have been arranged. It is certainly a vital educational tool to have mastery over, but difficult to manage as just that given the school setting.</p>
parent		4	<p>My son uses our computer for all of the above reasons. We have computers and internet access at home and I believe the pen drives work well. I do believe, however, of a student does not have access to a computer at home we should do what we can to provide him/her one.</p>

Parent/student	1:1 preference	Prefer carts as in grade 10	Comments
parent	3	4	<p>Since we have the family resources to provide satisfactory computer access for our 10th grader, we have been satisfied with the access that the school has provided. The missing dimension this year has more to do with how well computers have been integrated into the complete learning picture. In the previous years, the teachers seemed to have the coursework more seamlessly integrated into the classroom experience. There was more teaching of how to use the computer to enhance the learning experience for the students. I wish that were more present in the upper grades now, which I think it would be if the laptop program were extended (there would be a financial incentive to support the retooling it would require of the teachers to do this).</p> <p>* org tool: not used for this purpose. Paper planner is just fine. We don't need to provide fancy &amp; expensive technology for this purpose.</p> <p>* access info: we have web at home; also, library &amp; cart computers at school - that is plenty.</p> <p>* create products: ditto. That should be homework, anyway.</p> <p>* communicate: ditto again. Plenty of capability at home.</p> <p>* recreation: yes, at home. But obviously, this is not a school responsibility.</p> <p>* home resources: broadband internet; 2 desktops, both on internet; 2 printers; scanner</p> <p>* cost: \$300 doesn't sound like much. But for all students, it is a lot of \$\$\$\$. Do we really have so much money that we can meet all our other needs as well as laptops? I don't think so.</p> <p>* if you try to sell the laptop program based on "self esteem", please document it. Otherwise, it sounds like a joke and you don't help your case.</p>
parent	1	5	<p>Why not give laptops to those students id'ed by Special Ed as truly needing them as part of their IEP. Also, provide them to those students who truly cannot afford them (perhaps as evidenced by no computer at home; but some parents don't want them, either.) Leave it at that.</p> <p>If we must get them, I ask two things:</p> <p>1) do NOT make teachers utilize them. Teachers are the best judge of what works best. I am sure that most of our teachers are doing just fine without them. Let them decide, as individuals, if they need them in their</p>

Parent/student	1:1 preference	Prefer carts as in grade 10	Comments
			classroom.
			2) let kids/parents opt out. For many kids, they are just a big pain in the neck. And parents may have some very good objections to laptops as well. This has to be respected - diversity and all that, you know.
			Some final notes: personally, I object to having to assume the liability for something I see no value in.
			And let's remember, parents and students need to take some personal responsibility for meeting their educational needs. The school does not have to provide everything. I'll bet nearly all families in town have a perfectly good setup at home for the modest demands created by schoolwork. Let the schools focus on this things only they can do, or at least, do best. Laptops fail this test.
parent	4	2	Short money !!! Puts all students on an equal playing field !!! An education is the cheapest gift we can give our kids, society and our country !!!
parent	5	3	The computer has become a tool much like the pencil for our son. It is an integral part of his education. Research, notetaking, paper writing, communicating, it's all done on a daily basis.
parent	2	5	Our tenth grader uses our home computer to write papers, conduct research, find information, and to create projects and class presentations. In the non-academic sphere he plays on-line games and shops. He does not use instant messaging very often or email. While he would like his own laptop, he would prefer that we buy him one, rather than use the school's laptop. This way he could get the model he wants customized the way he wants and not worry about the necessary school restrictions. If we didn't buy him his own laptop, he would be fine using a pen drive.
parent	1	3	I thought it quite interesting when my son said he was so glad that he didn't have the lap top any more. He never really used it much in the 9th grade. He is an all honors student but found it easier to just use his computer at home.
parent	2	4	Our daughter uses our home computer mostly for IM it seems. Secondly for accessing information and creating projects. We have a laptop for her use that has internet access.
parent	5	4	We are fortunate to have a computer at home which the children in the family can use. They have however learned to organized material for presentations and have utilized many of the writing tools which have been introduced to them through the school laptop program. I would like to see a lot more instruction into how to use the laptop for research and the development of substantive writing skills.
parent	5	5	The school laptop program worked very well for our daughter. I would like to see it extended through high school.