

Wilton-Lyndeborough Cooperative School District-School Administrative Unit #63

Technology Director

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We did repairs on about 115 Chromebooks during the summer and fall - if you have a student at home you may have noticed that the device they have this year is in better condition than last year.

With so many adults now working from home in addition to students needing devices there has been a significant spike in demand for laptops and tablets. This demand has led to backorders for PC laptops, Chromebooks, and iPads, as well as parts for repair. For example, we ordered Chromebooks back in June but they have not yet arrived. But with the repaired devices and 60 used Chromebooks that we purchased from neighboring schools we have been able to provide a device for remote learning to all of the students grades 1-12.

Last winter I had informed you that we would be changing our broadband provider (which provides our internet access) to FirstLight. The project required the company to run fiber optic cables on utility poles so that permits from EverSource were needed. It took time to obtain those, but the fiber was run this summer and the project is moving ahead. We had hoped to complete the conversion before school started, but a configuration issue on their end kept us from meeting that goal. Nevertheless, if things go as planned we will have finished the changeover on the weekend of the 19th and 20th.

We had concerns about whether our broadband “pipe” would allow enough data to flow to meet the needs of all students and teachers at school as well as all of the streaming to remote students. At this time it appears that we’re doing OK. Once some backordered cameras arrive several teachers will start streaming more and that could increase the amount of traffic. We will be monitoring usage carefully.

As we head toward budget season I think that it's worth looking at our inventory of portable laptops (other than Chromebooks). This table shows our inventory and the date of introduction of the models we have. Due to the rapidity with which things change in the tech world we can assume that the devices were likely purchased in the year they were made. You can see that we had not kept up with a replacement cycle in the past few years

20 (on order but delayed)	2019
11	2018
4	2017
2	2016
18	2015
49	2014
37	2013
10	2012
17	2011
4	2010 or earlier