

Deer River High School  
101 First Avenue NE  
PO Box 307  
Deer River, MN 56636  
"Home of the Warriors"



King Elementary School  
504 5th St. SE  
PO Box 307  
Deer River, MN 56636  
"King Pride"

Dedicated to develop lifelong learners prepared to succeed in an ever-changing world

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August 12, 2013

Dear Parent or Guardian -

Earlier this summer I sent out a letter regarding an exciting technology project we will be moving forward with again this fall that will include one or more of your children.

As I mentioned in the letter, our district's vision and commitment is to *help students improve their skills and achievement, build positive relationships to others, and encounter broad educational experiences*. This vision is supported by the goals of this digital learning program:

1. Raise student achievement through individualized learning experiences
2. Increase engagement and excitement for learning
3. Equip students with collaboration, creativity, and critical thinking skills
4. Encourage students to communicate locally and globally

This year our digital learning project will include an iPad for every child in grades 2, 4, 8, 9, 10, and 11. Students in the elementary will be using their devices primarily at school, while students in the high school will have an iPad checked out to them that they will be able to bring home and use daily for school work, research, and learning activities. Additional iPads will be utilized with other grades at school in small group settings.

Teachers have been busy learning how to use these digital learning tools in our classrooms and some of the changes we've made to our management system will enable us to keep a close eye on how our students are using the devices. Teachers are very excited about using these tools in their classrooms and learning along with the students!

High School (grades 8-12) iPads will be distributed prior to school starting so children can get accustomed to them before they come to school on September 3rd. We have planned two deployment events to distribute iPads as well as discuss the expectations, policies, and features of the devices. We also want to talk to parents about the importance of school and home working in partnership to make this the best experience possible. Elementary students and their parents will not attend these initial deployment events as they will have a separate event once school starts.

For high school students, iPads will be distributed to students the **evenings of August 20th and August 26th. You only need to attend one of the nights.** The details are:

- ➡ At least one parent must accompany the student. An iPad will not be sent home with a student who does not bring their parent or guardian.
- ➡ You will be asked to sign a policy agreement that details the project, the responsibilities, and the expectations of using the devices. Copies will be available the night of the

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District Office

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deployment, but we would ask that you review the document online if possible prior to the evening so you can have a chance to review it thoroughly. The policy can be found at either of the following two links (notice neither has the www):

<http://tinyurl.com/DRipadpolicy>

<http://dripadresources.weebly.com/policies>

We have paper copies available in each building office as well if you do not have access to the online document.

- ➡ This year, parents and guardians will get to choose either a deposit or an insurance plan. Both plans cost \$25, with the main differences being that in the deposit plan the \$25 is refundable but there is no coverage for breakage while in the insurance plan the \$25 is non-refundable but there is coverage for breakage. Details of the plans are on the sheet included with this mailing.
- ➡ Multiple payment options will be available, including credit card, check, or cash. Payment plans will be available for those unable to pay the fee in full on the deployment nights, but parents will be asked to pay at least \$10 that night in order for their student to bring the iPad home.
- ➡ Students will be required to have a lock for their locker. If your student has a lock, please have them bring it to the deployment. If your student does not bring their lock you will need to rent a district lock for \$5 on deployment night.
- ➡ The schedule of the night is as follows:
  - ✓ 6:30-7:00 Registration and Payment Center (High School Commons)
  - ✓ 7:00-8:00 Grade levels meet in smaller groups for information and to get their iPads
- ➡ Like with most change there are often many questions. We will do our best to answer questions that evening.

We are excited about the possibilities of working with you to make this a special project and to provide the students of Deer River a great opportunity. Technology will continue to be a part of their world regardless of their vocation, and working together we can help prepare them for what lies ahead!

Sincerely,



Matt Grose

Superintendent for Deer River Schools

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