



1:1 Pilot Takes off in the Pacific

learning goes mobile

By Charly Hoff

Mobile learning lifted off successfully this year at Guam, Kinnick and Seoul American High Schools and Lester Middle School thanks to a pilot 1:1 (one-to-one) laptop program occurring at select schools across DoDEA. Students and faculty members at each pilot school received powerful and lightweight laptops through the program. The pilot began in Europe and DDESS last school year and expanded this school year to include the Pacific.

"The pilot is designed to provide students and teachers state-of-the-art tools to help reshape the classroom for 21st Century learners," said DoDEA Pacific Education Technologist Lori Dean.

The pilot represented a collaborative effort at every level—particularly for educators and support staff at both the school and district levels who put great effort in the planning, logistics, parent orientations and student training. Schools developed professional development plans to make the most of the new laptops when they began to roll out at the beginning of the second semester. The schools also worked hard to communicate the many benefits of mobile learning to students, parents and colleagues alike.

While the history and body of research on 1:1 initiatives is limited, studies have shown positive learning outcomes for students when implemented correctly. According to experts, the key is culture—shifting teaching and learning away from a traditional "sage on the stage" model towards a process-based model where students drive their own learning and teachers have more flexibility to facilitate deeper discussions and individualize support for each student.

1:1 laptop initiatives have also been shown to provide more equitable access to learning materials and higher levels of engagement with the curriculum. Other studies have shown laptops in schools enhance collaboration, problem-solving, and practical application of the 21st century skills and knowledge students will need for college and career success.

Students and teachers were each provided a sleek Lenovo T340 notebook sporting a speedy processor, ample memory and storage, onboard high-definition camera and microphone, built-in

speakers, USB 3.0 ports, 14" anti-glare screen, and best of all, the laptops weighed less than 5 pounds making them truly mobile. While the battery run time is rated at 9.7 hours, extra batteries and wi-fi connectivity were made available in each classroom for seamless learning throughout the school day. All the notebooks were loaded with Windows 7 and myriad educational software titles to give students and teachers the freedom to take

learning anywhere. As official Department of Defense laptops, students were restricted from loading their own software. And to prevent misuse while ensuring access to age-appropriate content, filtering technology

was used to block web sites deemed inappropriate by school administrators.

Most students are already comfortable with mobile tech and the pilot is a response to their unique needs and expectations. And while the pilot offers new opportunities for delivering curriculum and instruction, there are real challenges that

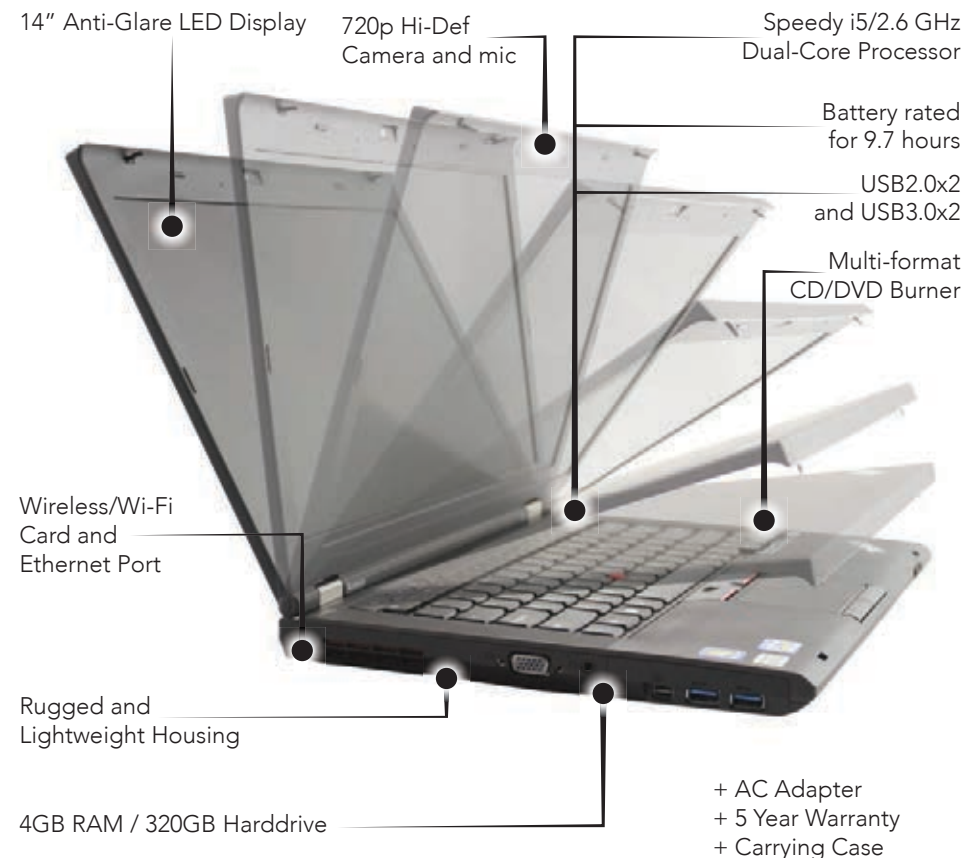
"The pilot is designed to provide students and teachers state-of-the-art tools to help reshape the classroom for 21st Century learners."

**Lori Dean, DoDEA Pacific
Education Technologist**

go along with any mobile initiative such as accountability, arranging repairs for accidental damage or failed components, power and file management and perhaps the most towering task of all, training for effective classroom management to ensure students are on task and making real progress. DoDEA Pacific has an advantage in having waited for the second wave of the pilot. Lessons learned from previous pilots in Europe and DDESS shaped the planning and implementation here in the Pacific.

“Purchasing, implementing, and managing over 2,800 laptops is a major undertaking by any measure,” said DoDEA Pacific Branch Chief for Supply, Logistics, and Services Mike Troyano, “so we’re working closely with the vendor, our IT staff and the educators and supply folks in the field to make the process as smooth as possible—it’s a true team effort all around.”

Dean agreed and said that with the logistics issues largely addressed, the focus has turned toward teacher training and support, “A laptop will never replace a caring and gifted teacher. Our goal with the 1:1 pilot is to bridge exceptional teaching with a learning style that motivates students to take their learning to the next level. As we close out the school year, we’re seeking success stories and lessons learned from both students and teachers



involved in the pilot so we can refine and improve our 1:1 efforts going forward.”

Whether the pilot will expand further is yet to be determined by headquarters. For now, the schools involved in the pilot to date will continue on for at least one

more school year to give educators and students enough time to fully gauge the impact on student achievement. For more information, visit the DoDEA Pacific Mobile Learning Support Site: <http://pacific.eportalnow.net/>



In support of the 1:1 laptop pilot program, battery charge stations are strategically located throughout the participating schools.

DoDEA Pacific Senior Civilian Leader Martha Brown asks a student at Lester MS about his experience with the 1:1 laptop pilot.

Students partake in technologically advanced learning via the new DoDEA 1:1 Laptop program.





"We have never seen a more dedicated teaching staff that goes the extra mile, puts in the extra hours, and provides the extra bit of encouragement that sets CT Joy apart from other DoDDS schools."

Mark Oxner,
CT Joy Parent



CT Joy ES Earns Blue Ribbon Recognition

excellence in action

By Charles Hoff

U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan recognized Charles Turner Joy Elementary/Middle School as one of 269 schools selected as 2012 National Blue Ribbon Schools during a ceremony held here Sept. 7 at Arlington Traditional Elementary School. The annual selection of Blue Ribbon Schools is based on their overall academic excellence or for making progress in improving student academic achievement levels. CT Joy is one of 184 Department of Defense Education Activity schools located on U.S. military installations worldwide. DoDEA consists of the Department of Defense Dependents Schools located overseas, and the Department of Defense Domestic Dependent Elementary and Secondary Schools located in the U.S. and its territories and possessions.

The National Blue Ribbon Schools program honors public and private elementary, middle, and high schools where students perform at very high levels or where significant improvements are being made in students' levels of achievement. Reflecting on why she felt the school was selected, CT Joy Principal Deena Brown

said, "Every decision derives from the premise of what is best for kids. We continually seek opportunities to improve our practice and hone our craft as educators."

According to Brown, tailoring the educational experience to the unique needs of each student also made a difference, "A focus on differentiated instruction and individualized academic goals has led to continued academic success as evidenced by over 98% of students being placed on the Principal's Honor Roll and our selection as a Blue Ribbon School."

According to DoDEA Korea District Superintendent Dr. Irby Miller, this award exemplifies the district motto of "Relationships, Rigor and Results." Miller said teamwork and a commitment to excellence on behalf of military families reveals a special connection between DoD schools and their host communities, "To be selected for this prestigious award is not only the highest of honors but also brings well-deserved public attention to the school's unique contributions to the families it serves."

Melissa Larot, a fifth grader at CT Joy said she feels a special connection to her classroom peers, "Everyone knows each other and everyone is nice ... I am really proud to be a member of CT Joy, I love it here!"

The National Blue Ribbon Schools program recognizes schools in one of two performance categories. The first category is "Exemplary High Performing," in which schools are recognized among their state's highest performing schools, as measured by state assessments or nationally-normed tests.

The second category is "Exemplary Improving," in which schools that have at least 40 percent of their students from disadvantaged backgrounds demonstrate the most progress in improving student achievement levels as measured by state assessments or nationally-normed tests.

To read more about CT Joy's Blue Ribbon recognition please visit:
<http://bit.ly/186bibw>

DoDEA Pacific Employees Facing Furloughs

students remain focus going forward

By Lawrence Torres

In conjunction with other Defense agencies, DoDEA employees face furloughs of up to 11 days for 11/12-month employees (e.g. GS, ISS and School Administrators, etc.) and up to 5 days for 9-month employees (e.g. teachers, paraprofessionals, counselors, some support staff, etc.) through Sept. 30—which marks the end of the current fiscal year.

The Secretary of Defense made the announcement May 14 stating that “major budgetary shortfalls drove the basic furlough decision” in a furlough memo. The SecDef approved a reduced number of days for 9-month employees due to their employment schedule.

“I join Secretary Hagel in expressing deep regret that any furlough action is necessary. I do not underestimate the great financial and emotional strain that a furlough action may have on employees.”

Marilee Fitzgerald
DoDEA Director

After careful consideration and input from each district and affected military partners, all DoDEA Pacific schools will be closed to students and furloughed teachers on the following dates if furloughs are implemented as planned:

Planned furlough days for all DoDEA Pacific schools:

- **Tuesday: 3 Sept.**
- **Mondays: 9, 16, 23 and 30 Sept.**

Due to legal requirements related to furlough notifications, Sept. 3 is the first available date for school-level furloughs in the Pacific. Mondays were selected to avoid conflicts with scheduled activities, athletics and events. While schools will be closed to teachers and students on furlough days, the front office at each school and the district and area offices will remain open.

DoDEA schools will start on time as scheduled for School Year 2013-14 and even if furloughs become necessary, each student will still receive a full year of academic credit and schools will maintain their accreditation.

DoDEA Pacific Senior Civilian Leader Martha Brown said a focus on students

will help mitigate the negative impact, “Beyond the professional and personal impact on each of us as employees, the fact that our students will lose a week of valuable instructional time is deeply troubling. And yet, we have to rise above that, pull together, and make the best of a tough situation for our students during these difficult economic times.”

Given the rapid changes to the sequestration process these past few months, more schedule adjustments may occur at any time. Fortunately, the changes to date have been favorable as evidenced by the initial plan to furlough all DoD employees for up to 22 days. Brown encourages all employees to check their school or office web site from time to time over the summer to see if any schedule changes occur.

Whatever the outcome, Brown noted that DoDEA Pacific employees need to remain flexible and ready to respond to the possibility of last-minute changes as the military communities served by DoDEA Pacific rely heavily on family support services like childcare centers and schools to meet their critical missions.

General guidance for furloughs has been placed on DoDEA’s Sequestration website which provides detailed information resources for parents and employees at



<http://www.dodea.edu/budget/index1.cfm>

The DoDEA furlough guidance includes several key reminders:

- *No employee can perform work or volunteer to perform work on furlough days. In fact, it is illegal for employees*

to engage in any of their responsibilities when they are furloughed.

- *Schools will be closed to students on furlough days although some employees may be on duty such as local national employees in overseas areas, principals and 12-month administrative support personnel.*
- *Furloughed educators cannot and must not contact students or parents about any school-related matter on a furlough day. We know this will be very difficult for our faculty and staff as they care deeply about the success of their students. Principals will provide parents contact information in the event of an emergency and a parent needs to contact the school.*
- *DoDEA schools will not double up on classrooms.*
- *Schools cannot hire substitutes to cover furlough days.*
- *Employees who have Extra Duty Compensation (EDC) Assignments (coaching, after-school-clubs, etc.) will be able to perform those assignments so long as they do so outside the normal duty day.*
- *Athletic practices, sports competitions, after-school club meetings, etc., have to be scheduled outside of the normal school day. Students and teachers may come to school for these activities.*
- *Principals will have to ensure that adequate building supervision is provided for 11/12-month employees who may be working in schools despite the fact that the school is closed for teachers and students.*
- *All contract employees must report to work as usual on furlough days.*

Despite the difficulties associated with sequestration, DoDEA Pacific will complete the current school year without any significant schedule or resource disruptions. Upcoming summer enrichment and virtual school programs will proceed normally and there are no current plans for furloughs beyond the end of the current fiscal year.

Pacific Highlights



Marilyn Lea Hawks



Jean Marie Tugero



John Murphy

DoDEA Pacific teachers become state-level finalists in National awards program

Three DoDEA Pacific teachers were recently selected as state-level finalists in The Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching—an honor awarded to the most distinguished mathematics and science teachers in the United States.

Read more: <http://bit.ly/11ciK0m>

DoDEA Japan Nurse Selected as the 2012-13 OSHNA School Nurse of the Year

Yokota West ES Nurse Lily Bagtas, was recently selected as the 2012-2013 Overseas School Health Nurses Association School Nurse of the Year.

Read More: <http://bit.ly/19I303C>



Lily Bagtas

STEMsational! Guam's McCool EMS places first in regional eCYBERMISSION competition

McCool E/MS 7th grade students Joseph Connelley, Jacob Augelli, James Cook and Tanner Guisinger became Southeast Region winners in the eleventh annual eCYBERMISSION competition sponsored by the U.S. Army.

Read More: <http://bit.ly/11q5xg6>



Joseph Connelley, Jacob Augelli, James Cook and Tanner Guisinger

DoDEA Pacific "Mathlete" earns spot in national MATHCOUNTS competition

For the third straight year, Osan MS eighth-grade student Jonas Knudsen earned the opportunity to compete on a National stage after finishing third in the 2013 DoDDS MATHCOUNTS State Competition.

Read more: <http://bit.ly/17vb0M0>

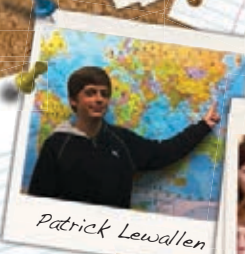


Matthew Burbee, Young Park, Jonas Knudsen

Ryukyu MS Student Advances to National Geographic Bee Championship

DoDEA Okinawa District is proud to announce that Patrick Lewallen, a 7th grade student at Ryukyu Middle School, obtained the highest score in the DoDDS Geographic Bee for the DoDDS worldwide. Patrick will travel to Washington, D.C. in May to represent DoDDS in the National Geographic Bee Championship and to compete for a chance to win a \$25,000 college scholarship!

Read more: <http://bit.ly/12jc0VV>



Patrick Lewallen



McCool EMS Students

McCool EMS earns national recognition with Green Ribbon award

McCool E/MS was among 63 schools in 13 states and Guam to achieve Green Ribbon Schools highest level of participation during the 2011-2012 school year.

Read more: <http://bit.ly/19AwUMm>



Mark Honnold leads the concert choir



Jan Nelson leads the string orchestra



The concert band performs

Top DoDEA Pacific musicians perform in annual extravaganza

Emotions were stirred, tears flowed and music filled the air as 160 student musicians across DoDEA Pacific's high schools put on a spectacular performance during the 2013 Far East Honor Music Festival Concert April 19 at the Kubasaki HS auditorium. The concert was the capstone to a week-long music festival which featured band, choir and string orchestra performances conducted by 16 DoDEA Pacific teachers and special guest conductor III Marine Expeditionary Force Band Director CWO2 Stephen B. Giove, who led one of the honor band selections.

Read more: <http://smu.gs/1aYtWPD>

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Photo of the Month:



Makayla Palazzo and Danari White, two DoDEA Pacific Students, attend the U.S. Senate Youth program in Washington D.C.

View Photo: <http://smug.gs/18PnZ11>

One hundred and four high school student delegates - two from each state, the District of Columbia, and the Department of Defense Education Activity - take part in the 51st annual United States Senate Youth Program held in Washington, DC on March 9-16, 2013. (© Photo by Jakub Mosur/Erin Lubin).

Upcoming Dates

- JUNE**
- 5 Graduation: Osan American HS
 - 6 Graduation: Daegu HS *
 - Graduation: MC Perry HS
 - 7 Graduation: Guam HS *
 - Graduation: Edgren HS
 - Graduation: Kadena HS *
 - Graduation: Yokota HS
 - 8 Graduation: Kubasaki HS *
 - Graduation: EJ King HS *
 - Graduation: Seoul American HS
 - Graduation: Zama American HS *
 - 12 Graduation: Kinnick HS *
 - 14 No school for students, teacher work day and last day for non-administrative educator personnel
 - 14 Flag Day
 - 15 Cooler, shades and flip flops required
... enjoy a safe and restful summer!!

- JULY**
- 4 Independence Day
 - 15 Marine Day (Japan)

- AUG**
- 1-7 School administrators and district/area ISSs report back to duty
 - 15 Liberation Day (South Korea)
 - 21 Non-administrative educator personnel report back to duty
 - 26 School Year 2013-14 begins ... here we go!!!

- SEPT**
- 2 Labor Day
 - 3 Planned Furlough Day :|
 - 9 Planned Furlough Day :/
 - 11 Patriot Day
 - 16 Respect for the Aged Day (Japan)
 - 16 Planned Furlough Day :(
 - 18-20 Thanksgiving (South Korea)
 - 23 Autumnal Equinox Day (Japan)
 - Planned Furlough Day >8(
 - 30 Planned Furlough Day, last one :)

* May be available as a live stream or for on-demand viewing:
http://www.facebook.com/dodea.pacific/app_192602997444667



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