Computers on Wheels (COWs)

This summer, the Technology Department deployed over 2,700 laptops—along with rolling carts and wireless access points—all across the District. The laptops are designated for use with Compass Learning Odyssey, a web-based, interactive computer program that generates differentiated instruction for each student, based on MAP test results.

The Carts
- Each COW cart has 7 laptops, each with its own power supply and extended-life battery.
- Laptops are assigned to a COW cart—an asset-stamped sticker on the laptop matches the sticker on the cart. You may combine laptops any way you’d like, but realize that you are responsible for keeping track of the 7 machines assigned to your classroom, especially at year-end inventory time.
- Keep the top of the COW cart clutter-free for ventilation, otherwise computers will overheat when charging.
- Recharge computers overnight or as needed (takes several hours to fully charge batteries).

The Access Point (AP)
- Each AP can connect up to 50 computers, but 30 is the recommended maximum.
- APs must be connected by the blue Ethernet cable to an active wall jack.
  - Note: Not all wall jacks are active—when in doubt, plug AP into the wall jack marked by a “W”
- Some APs get power from a plug and others directly from the Ethernet cable.
- Power on = green light • Flashing green light = no Internet connection • Unit in use = blue light.

The Laptops— to be used mostly for Compass Learning Odyssey
- Check the battery power level before powering on—depress and hold button on battery (underneath laptop) and note level of green indicator lights.
- Laptops go into “sleep mode” when not in use. Tap the spacebar to wake them.
- On start up, Laptops must load software and policies. This takes time, especially over a wireless connection. Boot machines well ahead of time to avoid student frustration. Make sure work station is unchecked at Novell login.
- Sometimes the computers don’t load correctly:
  - If the Zen Window (white window with icons) doesn’t appear, click the Start button, followed by Programs > Novell Zenworks > Zenworks Application Window.
- Student Novell Login—(be patient while it loads)
  - User name: School Mascots (plural)
  - Password: School Mascots (plural)
- Click on the Compass Learning icon to begin.

For questions or problems concerning computers, Internet connection, battery issues, etc, contact:
Help Desk at 765-5100 ext: 5580 • Email: helpdesk@hemetUSD.k12.ca.us

For questions about Compass Learning Odyssey, contact:
Mike Canon at 765-5100 ext: 3609 Email: mcanon@hemetUSD.k12.ca.us

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