

Falcon Instructional Technology

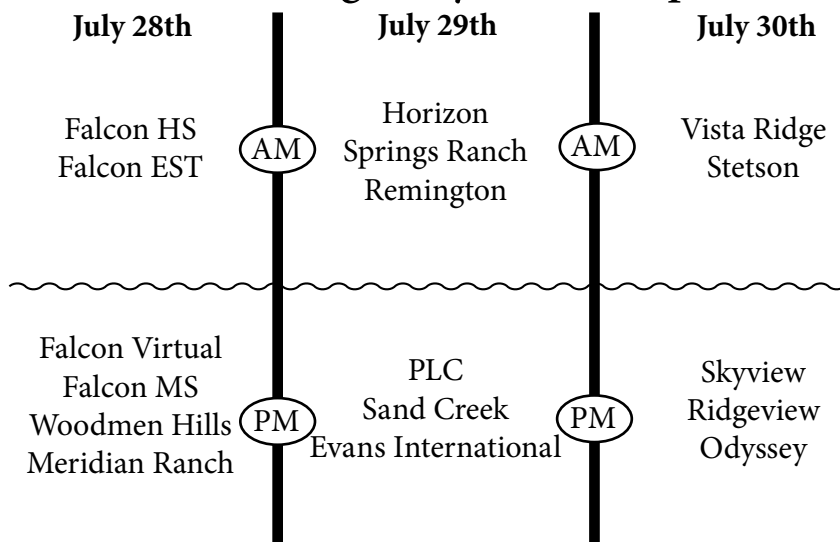
MacBook Pro Replacement

July 28-30th. These are the official dates we will be exchanging our MacBook Pros for our new MacBook Airs. Here are some more specifics related to the exchange:

- Q: What model is the new computer?
A: The new machines are 13" MacBook Airs. These machines will run considerably faster than the old machines. Apple no longer makes computers with a DVD drive so we will provide each building with 2 USB DVD drives that can be checked out from the office when needed.
- Q: Who can buy the old computers?
A: Any D49 employee can purchase the old MacBook Pro. Over 200 people have responded to my first newsletter to express their interest in purchasing their Mac. If you are interested and have not sent me an email, don't worry about it! My intent was to see how many people are interested to make the offer available.



When do I get my new computer?



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Google Apps for
Education Page 2



Purchase Office for
only \$10! Page 3



Back up your data!
Page 3



D49's new LMS for
everyone! Page 2

Get Ready for Google!

Google has an incredible suite of apps they provide for free to school districts. We have been hard at work getting our district ready to make the transition. One of the first steps you might have noticed is the request to update your password. The minimum requirement is 8 or more characters, at least one number, one lowercase letter, and one uppercase letter. Our current password requirements have not been updated in over 3 years and desperately needed to be brought up to current best practice when it comes to protecting your data.

When we transition to Google Apps for Education in late July of

this year, your email address and login will remain the same; however, all of your email will be hosted by Google. The best news is that your mailbox will increase in size from 2

no outages for maintenance.

All of our students will also have Google Apps as well. The biggest benefit here is a group of students can work together in Google Docs, seeing changes in real time rather than waiting for versions to be sent via email. They can share the work with you for assessment, which you can access right on your computer, no more piles of student papers to lug home on Friday night!

By removing these time-consuming bottlenecks, Apps frees you up to spend more time on learning and teaching. Find out more here:

<http://goo.gl/wKvKzJ>

Google™ Apps for Education



Education On Cloud Model With Google Apps

gigabytes to 30 gigabytes. You will be able to access your mailbox from any web browser, anywhere in the world.

Google promises 99.9% uptime with

School · o · gy (Schoology)

Falcon School District will have the full version of Schoology available to staff in July. This powerful new tool will allow you to create a digital classroom that includes assessment building tools, assignment creators, scheduling tools, discussion platforms, and announcement boards. Because Schoology has built in Google Drive Integration, students will be able to use Google Docs as resources from their teachers, or turn in a Google Doc for a project or assignment. Once the document is linked to the assignment, Schoology allows you to grade assignments with a self-created rubric.

When it comes to creating/moderating/sustaining a classroom discussion, no LMS does it better than Schoology. Teachers can use a “filter by user” tool to see which of their students

participated in the discussion, how often they participated and where their comments are in the flow of the thread.

Schoology also allows the teacher to view a myriad of analytics about student behavior on the platform - including time in course, last time logged in, assignment page views and more.

Used by more than two million users in over 35,000 K-12 and university classrooms around the world, Schoology combines dynamic learning management into an easy-to-use collaborative interface. Schoology transforms learning into a media-rich interactive experience where students, teachers, parents and administrators can work together to raise student achievement.

Find out more here:

<http://goo.gl/qmJ1NB>

Did You Know?

You can put in a trouble ticket with CCS by calling or filling out the web form. Use the links below when you need help with your classroom technology.



Help Desk Hours
6:30 A.M. - 5 P.M.

Phone:

In district: x1137

Outside: (719)439-0599

Web Help Ticket:

<http://goo.gl/6PNzjx>

You can also find tips on my web page:

<http://goo.gl/rcvVE0>



Do you back up your data? You should be!

What do classroom science experiments, orange juice, leaking roofs, and theft have in common? They are all ways staff in our district have lost data, in some cases their whole computer. Having a second copy of your important data can protect against the unexpected as well as prepare you for the transition to the new laptops we will be issuing in late July. Both dropbox and Google offer free storage by just creating an account. Buying a USB stick is an inexpensive solution and is easily transportable. An external hard drive is the most expensive option; however, it has the ability to back up all your data. Here are some links to the solutions mentioned:

These are only suggestions and should not be considered an endorsement of any company, brand, or solution! Choose a solution that will work best for you!



Dropbox

<http://goo.gl/ptxjkW>



Google Drive

<http://goo.gl/FKl65Q>



<http://goo.gl/IEb4uW>



<http://goo.gl/a1wusD>

Buy Microsoft Office

Did you know you get a substantial discount on the Microsoft Office suite as an employee of Falcon School District? Current district employees can purchase the suite for only \$9.95. This is an excellent way to get Office for your computers that you use at home.

1. Go to <https://hup.microsoft.com/>
2. Enter your district email address (e.g. jdoe@d49.org), insert the following program code **888F79D16A**

3. Place your order on-line and it will be shipped to the location you have chosen. Please note that a fulfillment fee will be charged to cover packaging, shipping and handling costs. This fee is the responsibility of employees who choose to exercise this benefit.

MacBook Pro Replacement (Continued)

- Q: Do I need to back up my own data before I am issued the new computer?
A: Yes! If you have your own copy of your data you will spend less time getting your new computer. We strongly recommend you have all your vital data backed up all the time. (See the back up article in this newsletter.) The computers are being distributed the first week the staff is back before students arrive. The sooner we can get you through the line, the sooner you can get back to your classroom and get ready for your students. Having second copy of your data stored on Google Drive, a USB stick, or external hard drive is always a good idea.
- Q: Can you buy more than one?
A: Yes! Purchasing machines other than your own will take place about 1-2 weeks after we

switch the laptops out. We need this time to clean all the user data off the machines and reinstall the operating system.

- Q: What is the cost to buy my machine?
A: We still only have a ballpark answer for this of LESS than \$600. Many factors will contribute to the final price, depreciation and the possible release of new hardware in June will affect the final price. We will get a final price from Apple in June.
- Q: What software will be on the machine when I buy it?
A: That depends on if you are buying the machine that was originally issued to you or a machine that was turned in from a different user. Here are the differences:

Buying the machine originally issued to you

If you are purchasing the machine originally issued to you, we will remove any district-licensed software that includes Pages, Keynote, Numbers, SMART, and the Microsoft Office suite. The Office suite can be purchased at a discount available to district employees. Pages, Keynote, and Numbers will be redeemed using your Apple ID on the new Macbook Air, so you can use the same Apple ID to restore these Apps on the MacBook Pro you purchased.

Buying a machine not issued to you

If you are buying a machine that was not issued to you, it will be completely and securely erased. The only software installed on these machines will be the operating system. It should also be noted that these machines are sold as is, with no warranty from the district and no support from CCS once you purchase them.