

ANDERSON COUNTY SCHOOLS
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Media Release



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Norris Elementary School teachers gathered in the school library to show off their new technology. From left are Dara Wade, Lynn Titshaw, Nicole White, Leslie Price, Marti Bailey, Deetra Moore, Mona Templin, Cathy Brown, Cheryl Butler, Mickie Widner, JoEllen Emert, Teresa Hutchison, James Sheele, Renee Branham, Jessie Fritts, Merna Crawhorn, and Laurie Templin.

WIRELESS COMPUTERS DEBUT IN NORRIS ELEMENTARY HOMEROOMS

It's a little different than a chicken in every pot, but the teachers – and students – at Norris Elementary School are now enjoying the benefits of a wireless laptop computer in every homeroom.

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The idea grew out of a “wish” identified when the Lily Pad, a science research cabin on the school grounds, burned last year, shortly after Thanksgiving.

The building is being reconstructed and refurnished, thanks to an insurance settlement, but the PTO at Norris had a dream for computer access that grew bigger once it was defined.

“Our goal was to buy one laptop for the cabin, but we were able to put one in every homeroom,” said NES PTO President Saralynn Stooksbury.

She said PTO fund-raising efforts after the fire helped make the gift of 12 “netbooks” possible.

The PTO stretched its dollars and ensured compatibility with existing technology by working with the school system’s Office of Technology, according to Johanna Whitley, Anderson County Schools Director of Technology.

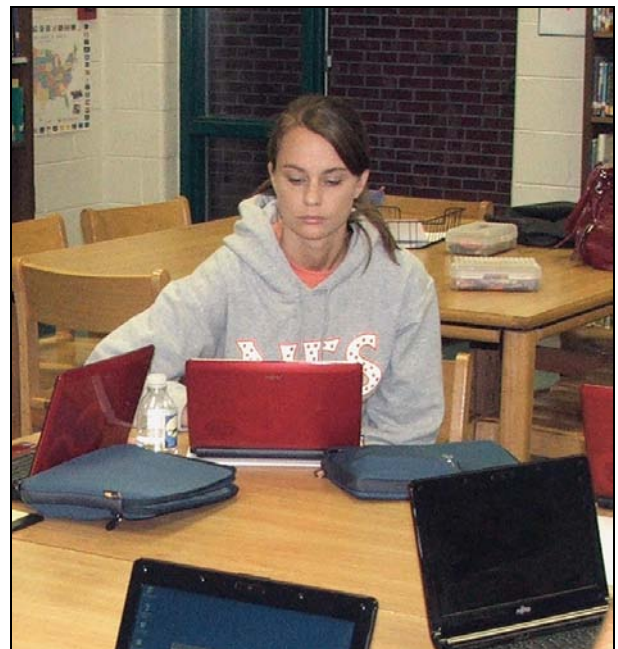
“A laptop has become an essential tool for teachers and students, and netbooks are smaller, compact, laptops. We are using them all over our district,” Whitley said. “We purchase business class netbooks, which offers our users a wireless, mobile device that can perform almost everything a desktop can do for minimal costs.

“The Norris staff and others across the district are using netbooks to prepare lesson plans and access all our on-line content, Skyward applications, desktop publishing, educational research, and e-mail.”

NES Principal Jess Anne Cole said she was thrilled with the end results.



Teachers Mickie Widner, left, and Cathy Brown share their new computers with Norris Elementary PTO President Saralynn Stooksbury (standing).



Teacher Laurie Templin concentrates on her new laptop, provided by the NES PTO.

“I am constantly amazed at what our small school’s PTO can accomplish,” Cole said. “If our school has a need, they work hard to find a solution.

“During this season of Thanksgiving and celebration, we are certainly thankful to work in a community where education a priority,” Cole said.

Cole said there are “countless ways” teachers will be able to use the new technology.

“I envision a teacher at the wetland with her class, and students working to identify a plant or dragonfly. The class can log on to the wireless laptop and make the identification while they are still in the field.”

Stooksbury’s excitement was as evident as the teachers’ at a recent training session Whitley led, where flat-screen monitors purchased with school funds also were on display.

“We were happy to exceed our goal and so proud to be able to do this for our teachers,” Stooksbury said.

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