Summer Tech Institute

MT. BLUE REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT'S
SUMMER TECH
INSTITUTE
#RSU9SUMMERTECH

16- 17
AUG
8AM- 3PM
Mt. Blue Campus

bit.ly/rsu9summertech

After a two-year hiatus, the RSU9 Summer Tech Institute is back. Prior to opening day of the institute, there were over 25 pre-registered attendees with more expected to attend without pre-registering. The Tech Institute is a two day workshop filled with short, 30 to 45 minute sessions covering a wide range of Ed Tech topics including Seesaw, Canva, Digital Citizenship, Apple Learning Center, Google Workspace, Nearpod and more with a number of sessions designed to appeal to the districts non-teaching staff. There were a number of district teachers lined up as presenters as well as industry experts and a visit from Martha Thibodeau who is working as an MLTI Ambassador with the MDOE this year.

In addition to the great sessions that were offered, district tech coaches were available both days to offer support for anything tech related and a "tech playground" were attendees could practice what they learned and collaborate with other teachers. And prizes…there were tons of prizes that were donated by area businesses and a few resident entrepreneurs who donated a corn hole set, self care basket and maple sugar and engraved wooden magnets.

iPad Buyback & Deployment

In mid August, Second Life Mac came onsite to pack up and ship out the bulk of our elementary iPad fleet as part of an agreement to sell them these devices that was made shortly after they were purchased from Apple in 2020. This buyback should give the district approximately $57,000 to put toward the Tech Reserve Account to offset future tech device purchases. Signing on with a device reseller early in the lifecycle of our devices benefits us by giving us guaranteed
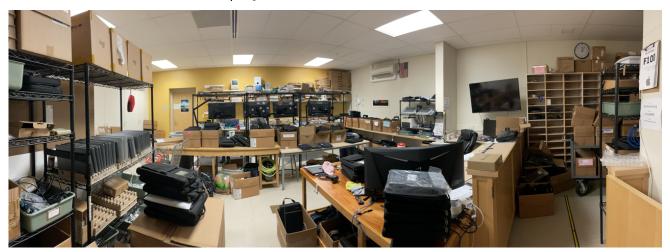
pricing while anticipated demand is high. If we wait until closer to when we're ready to sell, we risk there being excess used inventory on the market which would lower the price that we can get for each device. Using a reseller also greatly streamlines the process of turning over our fleet.

We are currently working to have iPads deployed to grade 5 students at the start of school and iPads for grades 2 through 4 within the first couple of weeks with the remaining grades before the first of October. We generally strive to have all devices ready on the first day of school, however, this year we had some unexpected delays which have pushed our ready date out past that time.

Summer Work: Controlled Chaos

This will probably be on every board update from me in the summer because this is such an important and busy time for the tech department every year. This summer our department has undertaken a number of larger projects which has added to our already heavy workload. Fortunately, efficiencies that we've gained In our processes have allowed us to tackle the extra projects.

At the end of each school year, we collect every student assigned device from Kindergarten through grade 12 and recondition it for the next school year which includes cleaning, re-imaging, updating the OS and re-assigning as necessary. This summer included readying much of our iPad fleet for resale and acquiring new devices to replace them. As we make the shift back to pooled devices for the elementary grades, this includes setting up for 'shared iPad' deployment so students can have their own space on the iPad while still allowing the device to be used by multiple students. This has included a lot of technical work on the back end through our MDM (mobile device management) platform and synchronization with PowerSchool and our Apple School Manager instance.