



# USD 487 Tech Bytes

*Technology for Learning*

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## Disaster Waiting to Happen....

*Keep me safe  
from falls.*



If you take a quick walk around the school during any given hour, you will find that disaster is just waiting to happen. Cords are stretched across walkways, trying to reach the nearest outlet. Even first hour of the day when the laptops should be fully charged you will find computer cords reaching across isles to plug in! It only takes a second for someone to trip on a cord and pull the laptop to the floor.

It is the student's responsibility to take care of the laptop. If the unit is damaged due to a fall, the student will be responsible for the repair costs and/or replacement.

### Recommendation:

- Bring the computer to school with a full charge.
- If the computer needs to be charged, locate yourself and the computer close to a power source. (Do not stretch across an isle)
- Plan charge times when you can set the laptop off to the side of a room.

## Keeping the focus on learning....

The addition of laptops to the high school has provided a number of opportunities for students and for staff. Some promote student learning and some detract. Our challenge is to keep the focus on learning and not just fill time!

### What we are finding...

- Staff are willing to make more use of technology, but are concerned with students not paying attention in class.
- Most students are making good use of the computers to take notes and access research materials.
- Email and other social communication seem to be the greatest distraction to class activities.

### Suggestions...

- Stay focused on what is happening in class. Use the computers as tools to do better in class.
- Leave the social activities, such as email, to times outside of class.

*Jon Utech*  
*jutech@usd487.org*

## Key Websites:

Herington Schools	<a href="http://www.heringtonschools.org">http://www.heringtonschools.org</a>
School Library	<a href="http://books.usd487.org">http://books.usd487.org</a>
Safe Videos	<a href="http://ttc.usd487.org/safevideos">http://ttc.usd487.org/safevideos</a>
E-mail	<a href="http://mail.usd487.org">http://mail.usd487.org</a>
KanEd Desktop	<a href="http://kportal.learningstation.com">http://kportal.learningstation.com</a>



## Blocked Sites:

A common complaint from students is that sites are blocked from access. The filter at school is intended to keep users safe and to keep the focus of our technology on education. If there are sites needed for classes, report them to a teacher. They can make a request to approve the site for use on school computers. Staff requests are handled on the day they are received.