



PO Box 310 30100 Olmstead Rd., Flat Rock, MI 48134 1-734-379-9766 1-734-379-9786 ( Fax)

February 21, 2008

Dear Parents,

I am sure you have heard from your kids and from the administrators, information about the additional program we are adding to our schools, called the 1 to 1 laptop program. This is being implemented for 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade at Summit Academy Flat Rock and 6<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> at Summit Academy North for the 2008-2009 school year, with some grade levels being “rolled out” this year. We have put many programs in place, within Summit Academy Schools, to give our kids the advantages they deserve in today’s global economy. We have increased the rigor in our curriculum, high expectations along with programs that allow for enrichment, remediation and recovery where necessary. Our staff is providing relevant lessons, so our students find “meaning” in their studies. We also know we have to provide them with every opportunity to increase their knowledge in the area of technology, and take advantage of their natural eagerness to utilize technology in education.

As parents you have seen how our kids have changed dramatically in how they learn and process what is happening in our society. We used paper, pencils, chalkboard and books. Our kids are used to highly advanced technical devices. Society has taught our young people to be extremely comfortable utilizing and depending on technology tools, for education, work and play. It is “first hand” to them. They are “the digital generation” or better known as digital natives (these are young people that grew up with video games, computers, the internet, mobile phones, instant messaging, and digital cameras.) These things are an integral part of their reality. It makes sense that technology is their “genre of choice”. They are very engaged while using technology and it is this engagement we will utilize, when providing Downriver’s most expansive 1 to 1 laptop program. It’s all about providing an optimized educational environment.

Summit Academy Schools is providing a 21<sup>st</sup> century learning environment. With the 1 to 1 program, our students will be working on digital curriculum, teachers will be using blogs, wiki and podcasts to enhance learning. The future content that our kids are to learn is largely digital and technological which includes software, hardware, nanotechnology and robotics, along with the standard, mathematics, language arts, ethics, politics, sociology and other things. We want our students to be the leaders in these areas. Our kids are multi-taskers, expert technologists and active learners. We know from the research that 1 to 1 programs improve student academic achievement; students demonstrate better analytical skills, collaborate more and have lower absenteeism. It enhances both gifted programs and recovery programs.

Our Parent Information Night for the laptop program is February 27<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm in the High School Gymnasium (18601 Middlebelt Rd., Romulus, MI 48174). Plus, one lucky person will win an iPod Touch at the end of the presentation.

We will also be having the following events in the High School Gym:

March 17<sup>th</sup> - 6:00pm – Presentation and Rollout of laptops for 8<sup>th</sup> graders

March 18<sup>th</sup> – 5:30 pm – Presentation and Rollout of laptops for 6<sup>th</sup> graders

7:00 pm – Presentation and Rollout of laptops for 7<sup>th</sup> graders

April 2<sup>nd</sup>- 6:00 pm - Rollout of laptops for Summit Academy Flat Rock 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> graders AND Make-up night for all others

We hope to see you at our information and rollout nights!

Thank You,  
Alison Cancellari  
Summit Academy School  
Program Director