

# Queen Anne Elementary Student Device Program Transforming 'One-to-One' into 'One-to-the-World'

Dear QAE Families and Students:

Wahooty! That's a word our staff uses to celebrate wonderful moments at QAE. I have a big Wahooty! because I get to announce that our One-to-One device program is here.

We began discussing the idea of our students having access to devices in our first year, even at a time when we were flush with computers and we had 112 kids. Joe Bailey paved the way with a one-to-one iPod Touch model and last year our first grade teachers bravely raised their hands and said they wanted to pilot one-to-one in their classrooms. This was a bit of a shock to our SPS system and bureaucracy--but it happened. It happened and it was such a positive, transformative program that every teacher agreed that we would pursue one-to-one school-wide starting this school year.

I met with SPS leadership at the end of June with this proposal and received their support to make QAE the first one-to-one elementary school in the district. While getting the devices into the hands of our students hasn't been easy, QAE now has a fabulous opportunity to demonstrate student learning in a creative, collaborative way.

Twenty-three years ago, as a fourth grade teacher, I took on the task of writing and implementing the first Technology Plan for my school. Ever since that time I have believed that the use of technology can be transformational in the learning process of young students, but I really wanted to see it in with the One-to-One model.

My biggest AHA moment last year came when I realized the power of students having their own device, not one they got for 20 minutes a day, or on Tuesdays and Thursdays for STMath work. When students "owned" it, it became their learning tool, the showcase of their learning, their research tool, and a way to share all of those things with their teacher, fellow students, and literally the world.

That is why our PTA/Staff Technology Committee re-wrote the tagline--instead of One-to-One, we call this One-to-the-World. That did not-- and I believe could not-- happen until students had ownership of this tool. That is the most important reason for me to be excited about this.

We talk about our Five Pillars often because they guide 21st century skills that we are teaching and that students are developing across all prongs of our program. When I look at these Pillars through a One-to-the-World lens, I see how much further they reach:

*We are self-directed learners – in how we learn, when we learn, and where students drive the pace of their learning and depth of their inquiry*

*We encourage each other to think critically and learn more – when our world is expanded, we have more information to consider and can see how others are thinking, feeling, and learning*

*We are concerned, confident and compassionate citizens of the world – we connect to the world, create with the world and gain perspectives outside our community*

*We learn everywhere, we learn together – and we can extend our learning communities*

*We are creative – in how we learn, how we access information, how we present it and how we share it*

We have this unique opportunity because we have a unique community. We have a staff that is innovative, creative, risk taking, collaborative, and brave. We have a community who chooses to be here, from those 112 who took a risk that first year because they believed we were committed to creating a special place for kids and for adults, to those who come now that they can see the fruits of hard work and a willingness to be open to change.

We have this unique opportunity because we have a community that is willing to give their time, energy, and money to make special things happen. Together we will take advantage of this unique opportunity and our children will become leaders with us.

Sincerely,

David Elliott  
Principal  
Queen Anne Elementary