

# Reboot: District replaces MacBooks with iPads

by junior Madison Michael

Last year, the four-year MacBook lease contract the school had with Apple ended, leaving the administration and the district's technology team looking for an alternative. After much thought and debate, they came to the decision to change platforms and begin providing iPads for the students.

In total, they traded the MacBook Air laptops with 785 7th Generation iPads so that every K-12 student would be able to complete their work in the case that school had to move to an online or hybrid learning option.

A driving factor for this change in platforms was money. The total cost of the new iPads was \$277,053, which meant an estimated \$80,000 in savings compared to the amount of devices last year. This year, more devices were bought for less money compared to other options. And we're still saving.

But the decision wasn't solely driven by the dollar. The team wanted to make sure that learning would not be compromised. Last winter, approximately a dozen students, grades 7-12, trial-ran the iPads. After, it was determined students

were able to complete most of the same necessary tasks on the iPad as the Macbook.

Out of the 14 teachers polled, 64% found that lesson planning hasn't changed much with the switch,

but some find it a bit more difficult. High school family and consumer science

teacher Sandra Fribley is one of these people. Websites used to help students during design lessons in her Interior Design class, apps are now seen on smaller screens and run differently. "There are many 'touch' options that have to be learned," said Fribley. "Once those are figured out, the iPads will be a useful tool."

Teachers were set to receive additional tech training last spring, but that did not happen due to the school shutdown. Some teachers hoped to have iPads over the summer in order to become more familiar with them, but with limited access to the high school and the looming task of collecting a fleet of laptops (and preparing an even bigger fleet of iPads), the tech team was totally booked.

For students, the biggest change was learning how to use the new technology. Many students, like senior Jessica Carolan,

found the transition to be quite difficult. "I think they make it difficult to learn and do necessary tasks compared to the laptops," said Carolan. She is a part of the 29% of students who do not like the new technology at all.

Sophomore Jasmine Oleson has multiple reasons to love the iPads. She and 13% of Hudson students find it easy to use the apps on the devices rather than browsers on a laptop, and the split screen feature is very beneficial for school work.

"Recent Apple iPads have been created as more of an alternative to a laptop. I think that the school took advantage of this, especially since our older MacBook Airs aren't the same as when we first got them. The very high expenses we have to pay to fix them were partially due to the age of them," said Oleson. "The school was in need of something new, high quality, and more affordable tech. The iPad 7 is that."

**"I like the iPads because I can use the real apps instead of having to open everything in different browser tabs, which can kill your battery. I also think it's easier and faster to get the split screen compared to the computer."**

-sophomore Jasmine Olson

**83%** of the 145 high school students polled said they are not satisfied with the decision to use iPads instead of Macbooks.

**"I think they are difficult to try and figure out how to run compared to the computers."**

-senior Jessica Carolan

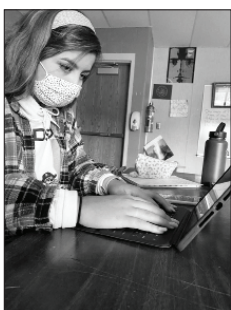


photo by senior Caitlyn O'Malley

**Senior Marli Reisner was one of 42 students who said on a Love|Hate scale of 1 to 5, she "hates" iPads. "They are a struggle to use because they are so different than what we're used to," said Reisner, "especially Google Docs, one of the most used apps in school."**

## The School Year At-A-Glance

by senior Jetta Colsch

There have been a lot of changes this year, and many aren't sure how the 2020-2021 school year will progress. Hudson staff answer some of those questions, the best they can, in these uncertain times.

**How will assemblies, class meetings, and pep rallies for the high school be different this year?**

"Assemblies and class meetings will be limited, and social distancing will be practiced by masked attendees." - 7-12 principal Jeff Dieken

**Are you planning the traditional Veterans Day assembly, mock elections, and the MLK Day assembly?**

Though the government class is planning a second year of mock elections with a twist in tone, the other November assembly has been altered. Said high school government teacher Paul Simmer, "Our Veterans Day Assembly will not come close to what we have had in the past. Our school is not allowing anyone to come into the school building, especially older people, so we will not actually have the assembly. We are also not having the meal that usually goes with it. The students will not go into the auditorium, we're not having any guests here, we aren't having the color guard, and the band and choir are not performing. If we do anything, it might be a video we put online." Simmer also noted that, as of now, January's MLK assembly will be "a video of some sort" unless things change.

**Will Thanksgiving, Winter, or Spring Break be different this year?**

"I am aware of the recent decisions made by the Regent Universities regarding changes to their calendar. At this time, we are not planning any changes. However, we continually monitor our localized data and will make decisions as conditions warrant." - Dr. Tony Voss, superintendent

**Will there be state assessments in April? Semester tests either semester?**

"At this time, there will be State Assessments and finals. [However], specific dates are [yet] to be determined." - 7-12 principal Jeff Dieken

**Will the juniors be able to job shadow this spring?**

"As of right now, we are not able to do any job shadow opportunities as a whole grade level. Many businesses and places of work are not allowing visitors of any kind, like Hudson, which makes it difficult to arrange these experiences. If, in the spring, the limitations in place due to COVID lessen, then we will try to arrange job shadows for both seniors and juniors. I have been encouraging students to reach out to the people in their lives who may have a similar occupation to what they are interested in and interview the person."

- 7-12 guidance counselor Kori Koop

**What factors will be taken into consideration to determine if there will be a school-sponsored prom? When will the district commit to plans regarding prom?**

"We are currently planning for prom. This could change as we look at COVID stats in our school, community, county, etc. Guidance from our health departments will also be considered. There is no magical date the district will commit to with regards to prom. If the health of our students is at risk or the state issues a mandate, it could be canceled as late as the day before. Students are advised to prepare and purchase with that in mind." - 7-12 principal Jeff Dieken

**What are the plans for a 2021 graduation?**

"The same factors we are currently utilizing in our decision matrix will be utilized for all activities, including graduation. [The district hasn't] even discussed graduation yet, and we'll likely begin having those conversations around March." - Dr. Tony Voss, superintendent

**What will determine if there will be a Pirate Term in May 2021? Will current seniors be allowed to voluntarily participate?**

"At this time, Pirate Term is on hold. Many of our Pirate Term offerings involve outside entities like hospitals, colleges, businesses, etc. Many of those places are limiting visitors, much like we are in our district. If we have Pirate Term this year, students in grades 7-11 will participate [as usual]." - 7-12 principal Jeff Dieken