



MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

MSBSD MEDIA UPDATE—January 2017

At the beginning of his tenure, Mat-Su Borough School District Superintendent, Gene Stone, announced continuing guiding principles for the MSBSD—

Responsive. Resourceful. Relevant.

The guiding principles are the District’s commitment to meeting the needs of students and employees, using resources wisely, and preparing students for life after high school.

Mat-Su Borough School District students and parents have many choices. Choices of which school to attend, which programs to access, and choices of activities in which to participate. In addition, students have choices for how they would like to earn their high school diploma.



This week, Mr. Stone announces the roll out the first one-to-one initiative for the District, part of the Rural to the Core plan implementation of the 5-Year Technology Plan, at Susitna Valley Jr/Sr High School. “The basis for the technology roadmap,” he said, “lies in the National Education Technology Plan (NETP), which states:

When carefully designed and thoughtfully applied, technology can accelerate, amplify, and expand the impact of effective teaching practices. However, to be transformative, educators need to have the knowledge and skills to take full advantage of technology-rich learning environments.



A technology plan requires much more than simply putting devices in the hands of teachers and students.

“Ultimately,” said Mr. Stone, “MSBSD hopes to achieve what is often referred to within the 21st Century Learning context as a Personalized Student Learning environment.” Personalized student learning is what truly prepares students to be competent, aware, and prepared for the future.

Gene Stone, Superintendent

“Whether students head to college or into a career post high school,” said Mr. Stone, “all students must be empowered to direct their own use of technology as they continue to learn everywhere and all the time.” At Su Valley, students will have their own devices, a take-home model of using technology for maximum academic advantage.

There was a time when utilities which are always a large part of business costs were referenced as water, electricity, and fuel. Mike Brown, executive director of It/Maintenance and Operations, quickly points out that technology is today’s *fourth utility*. Without question, as technology plays an ever more important role in education and education changes, the Mat-Su Borough School District will operate with the fourth utility concept so that our changes



One to World—MSBSD Rural to the Core Initiative
January 26 at 2:20 p.m.
SVHS Assembly



respond to meet the needs of all students.

Planned as “One to World,” Su Valley principal, Dave Booth said, “As

part of the Mat-Su Borough School District’s Rural Enhanced Access Initiative, Su Valley will be issuing one digital device to each of its students on January 26, 2017. The Dell® Chromebook devices will be taken home by our high school students and the devices for our middle school students will be housed nightly in the school.”

“Some schools in other parts of the country call this a one-to-one program, explained Booth. “At Su Valley, we call this ‘One-to-World’. So named, because we are connecting our kids not with a device but to a world of opportunity. Our students’ choices for class offerings, personalized education, and resources will no longer be geographically limited or limited by the size of the staff that serve them.”

Rural to the Core is part of the MSBSD’s 5-Year Technology Roadmap—bringing technology to the outlying schools first—demonstrating the commitment to equity and stewardship. Rural Enhanced Access ensures that students across the MSBSD have the tools they need as 21st Century learners. Part of the School Board’s five-year plan, the District began the technology implementation in 2015-2016.

“Our kids will be able to choose a direction while having an expert in the field guide them down that path from within our building,” explained Mr. Booth. An opportunity to bring the world to Su Valley’s students, he said, “We believe that the more choices and opportunity one-to-world offers our students, the farther they will take that opportunity and run with it.”

For more about the MSBSD 5-Year Technology Roadmap, Rural to the Core roll-out, or other information, you may contact Catherine Esary, MSBSD Public Information Officer, at 746-9251, or catherine.esary@matsuk12.us.

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We prepare all students for success