Buford City Schools Announces 1:1 Initiative

MEDIA CONTACT: Kerri Leland, BCS Director of Communications, (770) 945-5035, kerri.leland@bufordcityschools.org

June 24, 2020 – Buford City Schools’ (BCS) Superintendent, Dr. Robert Downs, announced that they will be implementing a new 1:1 digital technology initiative when the new school year begins. Through feedback provided by the community, it was shared that leveling digital equity was a great concern to many families.

“In March, when our schools had to abruptly close, we became keenly aware of the digital divide within our district,” Dr. Downs stated. “In response to this need, our Curriculum and Technology Departments quickly expedited a plan to provide devices for each K-12 student in the fall. With the next several months being so uncertain, this helps ensure all students have equitable access for their education.”

“A 1:1 device initiative along with the implementation of a new learning management system will provide unique, engaging, and interactive learning opportunities for Buford City Schools’ teachers and students,” commented Dr. Amy Chafin, Director of Curriculum and Instruction.

At the beginning of the school year, BCS will assign and distribute Chromebooks to each student. For K-5 students, the assigned devices will be kept in their classrooms for their daily use, while our 6-12 students will be transporting their devices between school and home. One of the added benefits of this 1:1 initiative is keeping viruses from spreading due to multiple students using the same device. Partial funding for this initiative comes from the CARES Act Relief Fund, making this a feasible project before school begins. Delivering this technology to our students will open a path for each student to be successful.

Jason Downs, Director of Technology, stated, “Our technology team is working diligently to provide a seamless rollout for the 1:1 initiative. We are ensuring that the schools have the infrastructure in place to support over 5,000 devices. There will be onsite technical support in each school to expedite any issues so that students can quickly return to their digital learning.”
Dr. Downs added, “I’d like to thank our Board of Education members for their support of this project. I am incredibly proud of our Curriculum and Technology Departments for creating a plan for this 1:1 initiative in such a short timeframe.”