



# Mountain Brook City Schools Foundation



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## Mini Laptop Technology in Elementary Schools

Funding for Technology in Mountain Brook Schools has been a focus for the Mountain Brook City Schools Foundation since its inception. The curriculum for technology has as its ultimate goal *technology fluency for all students so that they might use technology to communicate effectively, acquire knowledge, produce creative solutions and engage in a global environment.* In order to reinforce skills taught in the Technology Education Curriculum, the Mountain Brook City Schools Foundation allocated \$80,000 to the Mountain Brook Schools to put mini-laptops in each elementary school for grades 2-3. Initially, learning to use the keyboard was the most specific reason to purchase the mini laptops. These laptops offer a durable cover and a small keyboard for small hands. In addition, the cost for the mini laptops is half that of the larger, faster machines. Now that the keyboards are in the classroom, the students are using them not only for learning technology skills specified in the technology curriculum, but also for researching on the web, writing stories and making mini movies.

If you ask one of our elementary school technology coordinators about the benefits to the students, they would say that the mini laptops give the younger students far more access to technology than ever before. They no longer have to wait for an "open" day to use the computer lab. In addition, the students are becoming more technology literate by learning to manage, troubleshoot, charge, and wirelessly connect the laptops. Great progress is also being made by the students in learning the keyboarding skills that they will need as long as computers are a part of our lives.

Cassie Jacobs is a 2nd grade teacher at Mountain Brook Ele-

mentary Schools who has the following to say about the laptops:

*Technology is a wonderful way to enhance, engage and extend lessons. The Foundation generously donated laptops for the 2nd grade classrooms at Mountain Brook Elementary. Our class had a digital field trip and spent an entire day using our grade level laptops to work on a project. Students recorded their voices on Audacity and created an online poster called Glogster. They were able to link all of their digital projects and pictures from the school year onto their Glogster. It is amazing what students can do when they have the opportunity.*



Cassie Jacobs and her 2nd grade students at Mountain Brook Elementary are using laptops purchased by the Mountain Brook City Schools Foundation.

The Mountain City Schools Foundation looks carefully at proposals submitted for funding each year and because there is never enough money available to fund completely the requests, decisions must be made on what requests will bring the most effective tools to the classroom. With excellent teachers waiting to try new technologies and incorporate them into their lessons, the board members who make the decisions know that those items purchased will be put to good use. Without the generosity of those who have contributed to the foundation, pictures of engaged students using the latest technology would not be possible.

Thanks to everyone who has helped to make this picture possible!!! If you have already given in support of our efforts, we hope that you will consider another gift to continue the path of excellence in our schools. If you have not given yet, please give now. Any gift will make a difference. A pledge card is included in this publication.

Call our office with questions – 414-0042 or email us at [www.mbscfoundation@bellsouth.net](mailto:www.mbscfoundation@bellsouth.net).

## Mountain Brook High School Reunion Plans for 2011

The Class of 1971 is off to a great start with plans for their 40th Reunion. Activities will be held on Friday, July 22nd and Saturday, July 23rd. If you graduated from the High School in 1971, please go to the website and update your information and sign up for an exciting weekend of fun with your classmates. They would also like for classmates to add pictures and updated information. The website is: [www.mbhs71.com/class\\_index.cfm](http://www.mbhs71.com/class_index.cfm).

The class of 1981 continues to develop plans for their reunion which will be held during the weekend of August 5-6. Please send any updates to [www.mbscfoundation@bellsouth.net](http://www.mbscfoundation@bellsouth.net)

[bellsouth.net](http://bellsouth.net) so that the foundation office can forward that information to the reunion planners.

The Class of 1991 is planning their reunion for the weekend of August 5th and August 6th. Evening events will be held on both nights and there will be a family daytime event on Saturday. Please send updated information to: [mountainbrook1991@gmail.com](mailto:mountainbrook1991@gmail.com). The class also has a Facebook group page.

Off to an early start with their plans, the Class of 2001 held their ten-year reunion the weekend of April 2nd. The day included a picnic at the High School lunchroom and concluded with a party at Otey's for food and live music.



Seen at the Class of 2001 Reunion: L-R back row- graduates Forsyth Tynes, Kristen Conner, Carlton Fountain, Emily Ruth Terry and CeCe Freeman. Front row- Rebecca Wise and Virginia Alverson.

If you are a graduate of Mountain Brook High School, please stay connected by emailing your updated contact information to [mbscfoundation@bellsouth.net](mailto:mbscfoundation@bellsouth.net).