LapCabby
New thinking in IT storage

Bellingham Public Schools
a collective commitment

Accessible Technology Solutions

K12 students | All major devices | Driving to 1:1

Over the past few years mobile technology has rapidly become commonplace in the classrooms of the United States.

Research by The Learning Counsel has shown that 70-75% of all US K12 students now have access to tablets or laptops, and more and more 1:1 initiatives are being implemented in classrooms each year.

As schools' IT administrators search for solutions to help them manage this incredible shift into mobile learning, there has been a growing demand for charging and syncing storage solutions to accommodate laptops, tablets and Chromebooks. And while there are a vast variety of technology storage carts available, the limited budgets faced by many schools make it essential that IT decision makers get the best quality and most features for their money.

Indeed, Michael Garofano, Director of Technology at Bellingham Public School District, Massachusetts, found that failing to shop around made a big impact on his budget.

" When we first got into using iPads in our school, we went for a charging and synchronization cart resold by Apple," says Michael. "It wasn't that this was the best cart for us, only that we didn't know any better and we didn't know what else was out there – and it was very, very expensive."

For Michael, it wasn't until attending the annual Massachusetts MassCUE conference that he discovered an alternative.

He says, "It was at MassCUE where we first met LapCabby at their vendor station. Our first impressions were good; we liked how it looked, and we were impressed by the accessibility features. So, we tried them out, we loved them, and two years later we haven't looked back."

"It was at MassCUE where we first met LapCabby at their vendor station. Our first impressions were good; we liked how it looked, and we were impressed by the accessibility features."

Michael Garofano, Director of Technology

LapCabby
New thinking in IT storage

Bellingham Public Schools
a collective commitment

Accessibility

Every LapCabby product offers a range of useful features to make using technology in the classroom easier, from reinforced frames and wheels to cable management.

"Outside of the appearance and quality, what we really liked about the TabCabby was the accessibility," says Michael. "Before carts we had desktop labs – the class walked in, kids jumped on a computer, and everyone was ready to go.

" With the cart model, teachers now have to take time out to get the cart, pass out the iPads, and get the kids going, and they have to break up class a bit early to get all the tablets collected again and back in the cart. It's a big change in culture."

With LapCabby's combination of cable management features, which include cable clips, portholes, and separate compartments, this shift from desktop to mobile is made more manageable. Mobile devices are extremely easy to access, meaning technology can be handed out and collected in as quickly as possible.

" With other carts we found that it was very difficult to get to the back of the unit to grab the cables, so we'd had trouble taking tablets out and putting them away," says Michael. "With the TabCabby, though, the cable management and drawer systems are great.

" Both the back and sides open up, and ours have drawers that fit two tablets each. You don't have to reach into the cart to get tablets – you can take them out really easily – and it means you can get tablets handed out or put away much more quickly."

Programmable schedules

Beyond cable management and accessibility, LapCabby carts have programmable schedules that allow optimum convenience and usability. The Power 7 scheduling feature enables users to schedule up to three different charging times for each day of the week – 21 automatic charges in total.

Michael found that to be one of the features he liked most about LapCabby. "We love that you can program it to charge when you want," he says. "Around here the school day ends between 2:30 and 3:00pm, so we just program our carts to start charging at 4pm.

"We don't have to worry during the day about when we'll charge our tablets. The carts come on and shut down automatically at the time we programmed; all we have to do is remember to plug them in!"

Durable design

If carts are moved and shared between classes, it is essential that they are durable enough to withstand knocks and portable enough to be transported easily.

LapCabby carts have reinforced frames and extra durable castors to facilitate better mobility. Additionally, corner bumpers protect walls in the case of any collisions and ensure added safety should students bump into the cart themselves.

Michael says, "The physical nature of the carts helps in the sharing of technology; not only are they very sturdy, but one of the things we looked at – though initially it might sounds trivial - is the design of the wheels.

" Our high school and middle school are really large buildings, and most of our carts are on a check-out schedule and are shared between classrooms. So, they're taken into elevators and wheeled around multiple times a day.

" Some of the carts we looked at had these tiny, cheap little wheels that weren't very steady and wouldn't have withstood that kind of use. But with LapCabby's reinforced wheels, even when a cart is filled with 30 or more devices it is still easy to push, so every teacher can get it from one place to another."

Summary

Ultimately, the aim of LapCabby as a company is to make using technology in the classroom easier. This is reflected in the numerous innovative product features, many of which have been developed on the basis of teacher feedback, as well as the reasonable pricing.

" When we first met LapCabby, they promised their Ncarts were equal or better than the ones we were using. Turns out, I think they're better, and with far less cost," Michael says. "The majority of LapCabby products are two thirds – if not half – the price of the carts we had been buying previously.

" The product quality, the accessibility and all that wrapped up with the price is the reason that, as we expand our technology offering within our school, we'll continue to stay with LapCabby."