**Mobile Learning Device**

**Katy ISD Parent Information***(Campus fill in dates for when students begin use delete this line)*

***We are so excited to boost your child’s love for learning and for school work and homework by introducing the Mobile Learning Devices to 5th grade students in Katy ISD.***

**What is a Mobile Learning Device?**

A MLD is a cell phone without texting and phone services.

**So, what can you do with a cell phone that has no phone capabilities?**

We utilize the phone’s internet capabilities to access many of the online websites that we use in our classrooms. We can also download software and applications to the phone for students to use as additional resources. In addition to the internet, the phones also have audio, video, and picture taking capabilities that give the students the ability to create projects and record observations while on the go. Think of the phone as a minicomputer that you can take just about anywhere.

**How does my child access the internet and is there a filter?**

Yes, there is a filter while the device is in use within a Katy ISD or Verizon network. Additional information about home use will be distributed before the students take the MLD home.

**Does the MLD come home?**

Yes, students will be taking the devices home. Part of the training with the students is to learn about the responsibility of having and using the device. (See the Mobile Learning Device Responsible Use Guidelines.) Students will need to charge the MLD at home using the power cord provided. If the device is accidentally left at home, your child will use traditional supplies for the day’s activities.

**What if my child loses or damages the MLD or components?**

If the device or components of the MLD become lost or damaged, the parent and student will meet with the campus administrative team to determine further actions. Students will have to use traditional supplies until an additional MLD can be ordered and programmed. Please see the Mobile Learning Device Responsible Use Guidelines for more information on damaged and lost devices.

**When are student getting the devices?**

Students will begin to use the devices in school on CAMPUS FILLS IN DATES. A short tutorial will be provided for students by the classroom teachers, and a sample project will be reviewed. The students will begin regular use of the MLD on CAMPUS FILLS IN DATES during school hours.

**How does this all work?**

* Website – students will have a web based site which holds information and projects. Students can upload their projects to this site and teachers can check progress and assign grades. As the MLD comes home, ask your child to show you the progress on their assignments. Students will have the ability to view and create assignments at home.
* Lessons – Students will download teacher selected projects, podcasts and products to their MLD. Students will watch podcasts, complete projects and develop additional products using their MLD.

**How do teachers assign grades?**

* Grades will be assigned based on the product imported from the MLD and will be shared with students and parents in a variety of ways:
	+ Products can be printed and graded from a paper copy
	+ Rubrics (charts) may be utilized to grade work
	+ Grades and teacher comments concerning the student work can be accessed through the project website.

**How will by child learn to use the MLD?**

Technology Integration Specialists from the Katy ISD technology department will work with teachers and students. Selected students will be trained to be technology problem solvers who can help others in their class with technology issues. These students will be chosen by the classroom teachers and will work with the Technology Integration Specialists in order to provide additional support.

**What if something goes wrong with the MLD while it is at home?**

Troubleshooting tips and other helpful documents can be found on the MLD Parent Wiki (blog). Parents may post questions if technology support is needed. The Wiki can be accessed from each fifth grade teacher’s website. Email messages or handwritten notes to the classroom teachers explaining the issue had at home will be needed in order to help your child the next school day.

**How many other schools are using these Mobile Learning Devices?**

Last year one campus in Katy ISD participated in a yearlong pilot of the MLD. We have extended the project to 11 campuses this year.

**Katy ISD is excited about the opportunity to offer students the use of this technology that can enhance the curriculum and make learning more interactive and fun!**