

Computers for Students

North Middle School Health Sciences & Technology

Aurora, CO

North Middle School Health Sciences & Technology Campus is located in the heart of North Aurora, Colorado. It is the epicenter of where the diverse community paints the city of its distinct blend of cultures. The schools' demographics are in constant change and with it are the needs of the community. North Middle School is committed to acknowledge and help mitigate the educational and life challenges students encounter. Sometimes it can be getting the extra help with homework, and other times is providing the necessary tools.

At the beginning of the year, staff met with several families and learned that many do not have a computer at home. This impacted students' ability to complete many homework assignments. The mission then became to find computers for families at a low cost. Inclusively, teachers upload their assignments and homework online through Google Classroom. However, students without a computer at home cannot take advantage of accessing their assignments from home.

North Middle School submitted an application to Groove Auto for the Drive for Education grant in order to cover most of the cost of the computers. The application was approved and grant funds distributed. The next step was to find an organization that provided computers at a low cost. North's family liaisons found a non-profit organization with the same mission. PCs for People partnered with North Middle School to provide affordable computers for families.



Although staff knew the need for computers was there, it was a challenge to ensure the grant covered computers for every family in need. Consequently, the family liaison informed all advisory teachers to tell their students that they could be selected to get a computer at a low cost of \$20 if they wrote a letter explaining how it would help them in their academic success. The liaison received 83 letters and they were all selected. Finally, we had to plan an event for the computer distribution.



North Middle distributed the computers at a celebration event. The school partnered with a local Chick-Fil-A to provide dinner, free of cost, for families in attendance. PCs for People brought desktop computers programmed with Microsoft and antivirus software. They also informed the families about internet options at a low cost and gave them a full year warranty on their computer.

Individual conversations with parents at the beginning of the school year is what led to this event. "It takes a village to raise a child." The computer distribution event at North Middle School is a representation of what the community can accomplish when it comes together.